Senate Notes--January 5, 2016

I. Approval of minutes 12/15/2015. Passed by voice vote.

II. **Common Principle**: Personalization: how are we meeting the needs of students through relationships?
   a. **Greene**—working with kids who are not yet demonstrating mastery. Wonders what we can/are doing in our classrooms to help all kids.
   b. **McKittrick**—doing sentence diagramming with students; checking for understanding and making sure that kids really understand before moving on. Calling on specific kids and not allowing them to fly under the radar. Personalization is harassment. ☺
   c. **Greene**—students are often surprised when she knows their names.
   d. **Lindner**—some structures help us to personalize. Looping really helps—world language, Lower/Upper house LA
   e. **Lynch**—looping here happens haphazardly. Would be better if it were intentional.
   f. **Renouard**—would love to loop with students.
   g. **Huston**—helps when teachers are available outside of class time. During class, kids often feel anonymous. Good to have personal relationship with teachers outside of class.
   h. **Howard**—mentorship? Huston—has good relationship with his teacher, but knows that this is not the situation for everyone.
   i. **9th grade**—does not yet have strong relationship with mentor teacher. Helpful when teachers available to meet outside of class during specific time.
   j. **Devin**—Helpful when teachers available outside of class time.
   k. **Friedle**—computer science classes have been more rewarding to teach compared to video classes. Thinks this is because video is only a semester long and does not allow enough time to get to know the kids.
   l. **Jacobson**—great when kids take the time to come in for help. Often, the kids who come in for help are the ones who have "study skills" already. What would it be like if ALL of his 12th graders came in outside of class time? How can we increase our capacity to help all of our,kids.
   m. **Parent rep**—do we do peer tutoring at Hale? Howard—has been done as senior project, and has worked well. Lindner disagreed about effectiveness.
   n. **Arneson**—works with students who are behind in their work. First step is to make a plan—kids often don't follow through on the plan. Interested in different outcomes of personalization.
   o. **Jamieson**—personalization can't happen when classes are as big as they are at Hale this year. 5th period class has mostly non-college bound boys. Spends lots of time getting to know each other. Quirkiness can really help with personalization.
   p. **Huston**—getting to know teacher as someone outside of the classroom. Posters and/or room decorations can really help with this. See teachers as someone outside the classroom.

q. **Howard**—kids who are lower achievers really need personalization. Counselors count on teachers who can refer kids for help when they need it. Kids with academic struggles will often not come in to see teachers outside of class time. This is a team effort.

III. Administration
   a. Staff Meeting on Thursday—suicide prevention for next two staff meetings
   b. Early release day on Wednesday 1/13—Ali Michaels and Equity Team work with JAMS and Oly Hills.

IV. ASB
   a. MLK Assembly on Fri 1/15.
   b. Leadership class will brainstorm ideas for Tech Budget.
   c. Winter spirit day—likely on 1/22.
   d. 9th grade making t-shirts.
   e. 11th grade planning Winter Ball. 1/30. Looking for chaperones.

V. Counseling
   a. 2nd quarter progress reports going out this week.
   b. Grades due 5 working days after 2/5
   c. Counselors want heads up about seniors who are in danger of failing classes. Greene—146 kids on "in danger" list as of today.
      i. McKittrick—when are "at risk" reports run? Greene—monthly, for all classes.
      ii. Greene—this is how we find out which kids need our help.
      iii. Greene—big focus on 9th grade. If kids can make it through 9th grade, high likelihood they will graduate HS.

VI. Old Business
   a. The By-Law and Decision Making Matrix Review Committee is meeting next week.
      i. Greenway—really important to have Senate members involved in this process.
         1. Looking for direction from Senate
         2. All subcommittees of Senate should report back regularly.
         3. Urges all of us to respond to the Tech Committee survey
      ii. Direction from Senate
         1. Lindner—put this out via email to AllStaff

2. Currently, Decision Making Matrix is convoluted and difficult to understand. Need to turn it into a useful, working document.

3. Current committee is—Lindner, Grimes, Huston, Willner, Greenway, Renouard, McKittrick. Meeting Tuesday 1/12 at 3:30 PM in Willner's room.

4. Greene—bylaws need to set standards for subcommittees to meet and report

5. Greenway—how are Robert's Rules of Order being used by committees

6. Howard—keep it simple

7.

b. Culture Committee planning to bring another proposal re: Reading, Mentorship and Reflective Scholarship time

VII.   **New Business**

a. Propose to invite new school board member(s) to visit. (Jacobson/Foundation)

i. Plan to invite new school board members to Hale. Need to let them know of our foundation and philosophy, and what makes Hale unique.

ii. Should this come from Senate or Hudson?

iii. McKittrick—in favor of inviting school board members to serve as panelists for Mock Trial. Also for MLK assembly, panelists for senior project. Invite for tour.

iv. Lindner—likes idea of invite coming from Senate and Hudson together. Would like them to see our school in action.

v. Greenway—emphasis should be on showcasing Hale and getting board members to better understand us. Not a gripe session.

b. Query: budget & Program changes for next year (Greene)

i. McKittrick—concerned about Culture Committee proposal. Hudson stated that today is a drop-dead deadline for any program changes. This may be coming too late.

c. Coon—Community Relations/Director of Development Person

i. Over 10 years ago, it was proposed that we have a community relations person on staff. Tudor does some of this work, but there is enough to fill a full time job. Would like for us to think about this as a Senate. The need is there.

ii. Private schools have development directors. Good idea for public schools to have one too.

Next Meeting: January 19, 2016