Present: Robert McKiernan, Christine Griffin, Tara Miller, Suzanne Gillette, Billie Teixeira, Tom Cassata, Patricia Piaget, Gavin Roca, Leah Lipke,

Not Present: Gail Torchia, Chrystal Smith-Mineault

Co-chairs: Christine Griffin and Leah Lipke Recorder: Suzanne Gillette

Start: 2:40

Accepted Minutes: Meeting October 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 and the committee reviewed the minutes from last month. Mr. Cassata was invited to discuss locker room space issues and the present Spirit Week/Pep Rally.

New Business:
1. Locker Room:
   a. Mr. Cassata was pleased to report that due to the committee’s diligence, hooks were installed in the girls’ locker rooms. Mrs. Murray is also working on locker room updates; working with Perry Sheldon – the goal is to replicate what is in the boys’ locker room - Replacing 4 banks of small lockers with taller, equipment compatible lockers in the center of the locker room.
   b. Mrs. Murray suggested some type of changing space for privacy could be considered in the future.
   c. According to past quotes, the cost for such projects would be $8000 each and Mr. McKiernan thinks there needs to be more planning done to enact this.
   d. Mr. Cassata explained we have maximized the space we have and some of the locker room space is being utilized for storage. He is hoping to carve out some additional storage space once the auditorium project is complete and the present stage area is possibly split between the new auditorium and the gym.

2. Bathrooms:
   a. Hooks will also be installed on the back of stall doors in the student bathrooms.

3. School Culture:
   a. The fall pep rally and field day is presently centered on Homecoming and athletic teams.
   b. The committee agreed it should be more inclusive of everyone, while remaining a student-centered event. Mrs. Miller re-emphasized that a sub-committee should be formed as this is too much for one club to run and Mr. Cassata will be calling on many hands to assist.
c. The following suggestions were made to improve school culture and class participation:
   i. A dance in the spring held here in the school gym.
   ii. Leah Lipke reminded the committee that each class has their own Class Color and contests/competitions could include these colors.
   iii. Battle of the Grades where each class decorates a hallway, shows their spirit & competes for prizes.
   iv. Karaoke during lunch periods on Fridays – Mr. McKiernan noted play lists would need to be approved ahead of time, and Leah Lipke mentioned the songs would be holiday themed during the week before holiday break.
   v. Ping Pong tables being brought into the cafeteria on occasion for FunFridays.
   vi. Fridays open piano sessions in the cafeteria.
   vii. Trivia Contests.
   viii. Celebratory event after Midterm exams – “Midterm Madness”.
   ix. A more structured Field Day with options for athletics, art, technology, music.

d. Mrs. Griffin brought up the past success of the Mr. Red Hook competition and wondered whether something as that would be successful again – either a talent show or a lip sync contest?

e. All of these ideas were framed by the reality that the school calendar is filled quickly and all these events must work around AP & IB testing in the spring, Regents prep at the end of the year, Midterm exams in January, the Prom and Winter ball events.

f. One way to avoid conflicts would be to hold an event on a Friday night instead of during the school day. This would be a way to avoid mandatory attendance for students not interested.

g. Mr. McKiernan emphasized the idea of a bonfire was off the table.

**Old Business:**
1. Updating the forms in the Student Handbook was brought up again.
2. Mrs. Griffin asked whether there would be a sub-committee for this as so many of the forms are out of date i.e. Building Use form/Field Trip Permission Form.

**Agenda Items for next month on December 18, 2019:**
1. Assisting Environmental Club regarding collecting old t-shirts.
2. Mrs. Piaget asked for more communication regarding Scholarship/Contest opportunities for students in order to keep them more informed and ambitious. Mrs. Griffin suggested those opportunities could be put on the Family Connection page.
3. Mrs. Miller recommended we contact Mr. McCasland who runs the Summer Academy /SAT Prep.
4. We will invite Mrs. D’Onofrio and Mrs. Schmidt to next meeting to discuss SAT Prep and Boot Camp opportunities for students.

**Adjourned:** 3:48 pm  
**Next Meeting:** December 18, 2019 at 2:40