Wamego High School Site Council

Minutes for October 6, 2010

Members present:	Principal Tim Winter	Joyce Blanka	Beth Lang
	Chairperson Renee Pachta	Richard Flanagan	Cindy Poe
	Marilyn Beck	Jina Kugler	Shelley Rickstrew

Guest speaker: Mentoring Co-Founder Kathleen McPeak

Minutes of the September 8 meeting of the Wamego High School Site Council were read and approved as corrected. This year's chairperson is Renee Pachta, not Marilyn Beck.

Counselor Shelley Rickstrew and Mentoring Co-Founder Kathleen McPeak spoke to the group about mentoring. WHS Site Council had studied mentoring for 2 or 3 years before implementing it at WHS. The program relies on volunteers who have 4 to 5 students assigned to them. Mentoring was introduced one grade level per year with the class of 2005 being the first mentored class to graduate. Originally Mentoring Coordinator was a paid position. Susan Symons was the first coordinator and she was followed by Becky Wassom. Mentoring Coordinator is no longer a paid position. Kathleen McPeak has been a non-salaried leader for ten years, and she is feeling somewhat burned out. So far this year the mentoring program needs 4 more volunteers to have enough mentors for the Freshman class. Some people are also needed in leadership positions. The WHS Mentoring Program has been very successful. Only WHS has mentors for all of its students. An appeal was made to the Site Council to help find individuals to be Freshman class mentors and mentoring program leaders. It is best for students to have the same mentor for all 4 years of high school. The first meeting for Freshman mentoring is scheduled for November 4.

Principal Winter presented information on Kansas State Assessments. Students who need to improve their math scores have OTL (Opportunity to Learn) SIPs for math with Mrs. Martinie. The school gets detailed reports of exactly which area(s) students need help. Most students test as Sophomores and do fine. Only a handful out of a grade level need the OTL, maybe 7-10 students.

Students are usually assessed in Reading as Juniors. Sophomores taking Advanced Placement Sophomore English class can take the Reading Assessment and about 15 Sophomores had chosen to do so.

All of the Kansas Assessments are online now. They are no longer paper, pencils, and bubble sheets to fill out. It is much easier to administer assessments online.

Last year WHS tested in science. Kansas Science Assessments are not a part of the school's AYP (Average Yearly Progress), but are a part of QPA(Quality Performance Accreditation). There is a fixed achievement bar: 67% of students assessed must meet or exceed standard. Science Assessment is in two parts: Life Science and Physical Science.

The KID system at state level tracks students now, so it is easier to track an individual student's levels of achievement on assessments. Students take assessments between the end of February and mid April. OTL SIP runs through early May.

ACT scores for WHS students were good this year with WHS students ranking above both state and national levels.

Several WHS students have been recognized as Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars. AP students choose whether to take the AP test or not. Previous tests are ordered so that students can practice before testing. AP testing is scored 1-5. 5 means a student is "Well qualified" and is equivalent to an A letter grade; 4 equates to a B letter grade, and 3 to a C. Students receive no credit for scores of 2 or 1. At the university/college level, the individual college decides what it will accept for college credit. Some give credit at a 3, some require a 5. AP biology and AP chemistry courses are not being offered at Wamego High now. Last year, one student took AP French and AP German. Some students are in multiple AP classes and take multiples tests. Some students choose not to take AP calculus. AP teachers are required to be trained and must turn in a syllabus for their AP course. WHS does not place any restrictions on who can take an AP course. Junior PLC team members have done an excellent job of encouraging students to step it up their senior year and to take AP courses. All teachers are doing a good job of encouraging students who are able to take AP courses. Several WHS AP teachers score state level AP test over the summer and can relate to students what to expect.

Tentative schedule for the November 3 Site Council meeting: Counselor Jina Kugler will report on the ASVAB scores. She can also report on the Career Thoughts Inventory. If a student scores high on the Inventory, that is an indication that he/she needs help in making career decisions.
Danielle Borth will be asked to speak about the Live R.E.D. program.

There will be no Site Council meeting in December.

EXPLORE and PLAN results should be back in time for the January meeting. Independent Studies students will be asked to make presentations of their Independent studies achievements.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Blanka, Recorder