

WEDDINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
SITE BASED TEAM MEETING
April 11, 2018 3:10 P.M.

In attendance: Dr. Jay Jones, Timothy Higgins, Shana Stewart, David Morgan, Christine Morgan, Lauren Waite, Tracy Reed, Debbie Schneider, Scotti Youngman, Tanja Donelson, Glory Soto-Marcellini, Jill Brooks and Torrie Newman. Student representative Emma Horne and Ajay Kumar.

Hat Restriction in Dress Code - Student Mike Smith – A student presented the case for allowing hats to be worn indoors at school. Dr. Jones introduced Mike Smith to the Site based team. Mike asked why there is a rule of no hats in school. Mike stated that he does not feel the dress code is enforced unilaterally and that other students are wearing hats. Mike said he does not feel there is a valid reason that hats should not be allowed to be worn in school. Mike received praise for coming forward and voicing his concerns in such a respectful manner to the Site Based Team. Members of the team were asked to take this issue back to their respective departments to seek feedback and report their findings during the May Site Based meeting.

Cell Phones in School - Mrs. Donelson conducted a survey of Weddington High School students on the nature of their cell phone use at school and how it relates to classroom instruction. Mrs. Donelson reported on the results from the 377 students that participated in the survey. The survey results included the following facts; 98% of students carry a cell phone at school, the phones are most often used for listening to music, snap chat/ texting and are only used 20% of the time for academic purposes. Additionally, the survey found that 30% of the students were not familiar with UCPS' policy on cell phone use at school and another 30% of students indicated that they had seen other students use their phones during testing/school work. Mrs. Donelson then shared a strategy she uses with her

students regarding cell phones, requiring her students to place their cell phones in a pouch with numbered pockets prior to the beginning of class. Mrs. Donelson also informed the committee that Marvin Ridge High School has funded and piloted a similar “Pouch” approach school wide this semester. The team then engaged in a spirited discussion on the merits of allowing each teacher to implement their own cell phone policy in their classroom vice a more singular school wide approach that Mrs. Donelson advocated. Members of the team were asked to take this issue back to their respective departments to seek feedback and report their findings during the May Site Based meeting.

Smart Lunch – Members of the team were given a newspaper article from the Gaston Gazette highlighting a “Smart Lunch” initiative that North Gaston High School had implemented this semester. The Smart Lunch period carves out 60 minutes of time between 2nd and 3rd blocks where all students eat during this time frame and there is roughly a 30 minute period where students can do homework in a study hall environment, attend tutorials or possibly exercise. The overall intent of the new lunch format is to improve academic outcomes by providing students additional classroom instruction or time to complete homework during the day. Members of the committee discussed the feasibility of a Smart Lunch approach at Weddington High School and were very intrigued by this approach. Members of the team were asked to take this issue back to their respective departments to seek feedback on the feasibility and relevance of this approach to the lunch period at Weddington and report their findings during the May Site Based meeting.

Feedback on Varied Teaching Styles to Meet Needs – Two members of the team provided written feedback they had received from students on this issue. Other members felt it was difficult to draw any conclusions from the student/parent survey based only on a percentage. Another member felt that some students may not realize when a particular student is in fact receiving personalized attention.

The next Site Based Team meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9th 2018 in the media center at 3:10 p.m.