



# Redwood Site Council

1/13/10  
3:30 pm  
Room 120

*The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.*

Members Present: David Sondheim, Nancy Neu, Robin Lahargoue, Katie Paulsen, Bernadette Rattett, Aaron Simon, Lisa Choy, Michele Hayden, Sylvia Jones, and Barry Blue

Members Absent: Ann Jackson, Azita Sayadi, Jeanette Thorson

## ***Agenda Item –Approve minutes from 12/10/09***

- Minutes were approved.

## ***Agenda Item –WASC***

- David S. explained the WASC report process and RHS timeline.

## ***Agenda Item- Homework***

- David S. went over the handout entitled “Homework: Too Much, Too Little?” which is a summary of the question: “What is the value of homework and what does the current research say about it?”
- Bernadette stated that there are 3 sides to the homework issue. Parent, student, teacher and each has his/her own idea as to what’s going on. She said in her experience the students who complain the most are the ones who are not organized and not on top of things. Many students have so many extra curricular activities that they have no time to complete homework. They can be too tired and overwhelmed, not motivated. She feels students need to make a choice between too many activities and school work.
- Michele said that as a parent of 3 students, who attended 3 different high schools, homework didn’t seem to be an issue. Sports and extra curricular activities on top of APs, were more of a issue.
- Robin asked if there was a limit as to how many AP classes a student can take. David S. there is not.
- Katie made the point that some students can do it. They can take the pressure of APs and sports, etc.
- At one time TUHSD had a policy that students could take 2 AP classes.
- Barry noted that many parents put pressure on their students to over achieve.
- David Z. made a point that he has many extra curriculars and sometimes he will slack off, but he knows when he just has to buckle down and get his work done. He also said that some students take APs to make up for semesters they slacked off.
- Aaron said that he wasn’t hearing that homework is an issue, so why are we talking about it?
- Lisa said it might be a good idea to have a homework policy. Sometimes having it in writing, having it defined would help.
- Sylvia feels it is unfortunate that it is an either/or. She also stated that even though the College Board recommends only taking two AP classes per semester, they reward students who take more and receive high marks. The issue of summer reading was once questioned. Some teachers felt students should have the summer off while others wanted students to read. When teachers were asked, most were in favor of summer reading while some were not.
- Nancy made the point that colleges look at what schools offer versus what students take. If a student takes 2 AP classes out of all that are offered it may be detrimental to their college applications.
- Michele asked if faculty enjoyed teaching AP classes. The response from Aaron and Sylvia was yes. They both teach AP classes.
- David S. said that our district has flexibility in that there is a huge variety of classes offered that students can take depending on their skill level.

- Sylvia said that students should think about ways to ease themselves. Maybe no 7<sup>th</sup> period. There are ways to cope with the demands of high school.
- Robin feels that there is interest from the staff to discuss this issue further, as feelings either way are pretty strong. Teachers do what they do for a reason.
- Students who take AP classes know they are college level courses and that they have more homework.
- Nancy said that polls range on homework levels.
- Aaron asked if there had been a survey done at RHS to see how much homework students receive each night.
- Nancy said it is in the Healthy Kids survey.
- Robin made the point that when things overlap then students complain more than they would when things do not.
- David Z. said that he likes the pilot schedule as do many of his peers that he has spoken to.

*Meeting adjourned @ 4:30 p.m.*