

Instructional Practices Committee

2/4/2020

2:45 - 4:00 pm

Main Office Conference Room

Rick begins by appointing a process observer, recorder and note taker. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss Academic Recognition and Latin Honors. The presentation to the board will be in April.

Rick passes out information from Great Schools regarding a Latin Honors system. The team discusses what GPA's will allow the recognition system to be inclusive. Amanda notes that having a couple of levels (ex magna and summa) will give the ability for more students to be recognized in a structured, inclusive way.

The committee discusses various GPA's and what percentage of students receive certain GPA's. In addition the committee discusses how students will be recognized - tassels, diploma, etc.

Amanda explains that her home school district eliminated class rank, but now is devising a plan that in essence negates their change. She goes on to note that we should be cognizant of our new plan creation.

Holly notes that the shift in system may help students when selecting courses as the students may not be so focused on "beating" students to the top, but doing well in classes that they take in order to reach the Latin distinction. Tom mentions that the distinction will take away the pressure to reach the top 10 because the top 10 would have been able to have their rank. Now no one will have that ability.

Holly asks if we will use Latin Honors language. The committee appears to like this language. Tom asks for feedback from staff about students who they feel may be deserving of recognition to see where they fall in this discussion.

Tom asks about weighting CTE courses. The weighting committee will look into this and consider. Tom reports that CTE courses at some schools are weighted.

Amanda asks whether GPA is the only indicator that should be used to recognize students. Are we missing an opportunity. Yolanda speaks to academic awards ceremonies at HB - they did not pick class awards in science based on GPA - it was a more holistic look.

Rick goes back to CORE values. How can we recognize students who embody CORE values? Amanda then brings the course weighting conversation back so that we can look at not just focusing on GPA. Holly expresses that we can do both - Latin Honors for GPA and other

awards, for example CORE values to be presented at graduation (criteria would need to be developed).

Tom asks if the committee agrees that the Latin Honors system should be based on GPA. The committee appears to be in agreement. The committee discusses how the Latin Honors and the CORE Values “awards” can overlap. Krista brings up the point that we want to make sure we are not excluding a very small percentage of students for recognition so that they do not feel upset.

Holly asks if we could determine the cutoff numbers now. The committee discusses setting the GPA at an attainable GPA for students who are in all unweighted classes. Tom mentions that if we increase the pool of weighted classes then this will impact the maximum GPA.

Holly expresses that she is not concerned with the perception of everyone receiving recognition. We have hard working students who deserve to be recognized.

Rick asks the committee if they feel comfortable if we present this proposal in April. Tom explains that the first reading could be April, then so on. The committee discusses when this proposal could go into effect - the committee feels that this year's current 9th grade or 8th grade would be a natural starting point. If weighting changes the committee would have to discuss the appropriate time for that change to be implemented.

Tom asks if starting with the current sophomores is a possibility. The committee is fine with that proposal going to the board.

The committee reviews the amount of students recognized with tiers of GPA. The tiers the committee recommends are 3.8, 4.0 and 4.2 and higher.

The committee feels that it is possible to also develop a system for other honors (ex. CORE values) in time for the current sophomore class graduation.