

### Town Hall Meeting May 2, 2017 Topics with Summary Responses 6.20.2017

Topic	Item/Description	Time/frame	Lead/support
<b>Safety/Security</b>			
<b>1. Post School hangout</b>	Students hanging around after school with no purpose. The team will analyze the process for managing post school events and assess the school's performance regarding how scholars are moved to their activities. Also, holding stations need realignment based on parent needs. For example, siblings involved in after school activities having relatives who are not (where do they go). All scholars should have a constructive purpose and are welcome to be at the school. What must be avoided is the scholar without a purpose.	Plan for fall 2017 to present at parent orientation.	Dean of Culture/after school team
<b>2. Why is there not a safety patrol</b>	Safety patrol may be explored as an extracurricular activity (esp. for MS). This topic will be explored in the appropriate forum with the leadership team.	Explore for fall 2017	Dean of culture school leader
<b>3. Advised that cameras do not work</b>	This is not correct. The cameras internally and externally are functional. The surveillance system is a critical part of our security. However, we prefer to use the system for surveillance and security; not to solve problems of lost items.		
<b>4. Bullying and Fights</b>	We have strict policies for addressing bullying and fights. We will continue to highlight bullying and fighting in the student code of conduct. We want to	Present at fall orientations	Dean of culture/all other staff

	make sure that all scholars feel comfortable bring up issues if they are bullied in any way. We also want scholars to feel comfortable and responsible for bringing any such matters witnessed to the attention of staff. We will look into having more visuals displaying anti-bullying and promote more conflict resolution strategies to help scholars exhibit positive behaviors and manage their emotions and responses.		
<b>5. Need for more conflict resolution techniques</b>	This is a definite area that can be improved. Scholars are in need of more techniques to manage their responses to challenging moments. One area of exploration is to provide tools via training that will help scholars respond in less confrontational manners and seek out positive and constructive solutions to issues and matters that frequently challenge them.	Part of PD for August 2017	Dean of Culture, social workers, and counselors
<b>6. Safety concerns on Michigan Ave. when students cross. Not crossing at traffic light, taking chances.</b>	This is a concern that we share given the number of scholars that may walk home or go to stores, and restaurants across Michigan Avenue. We will promote travel (walking) safety habits to all of our scholars. Making them aware of the dangers of not crossing at the light. We will also work to eliminate scholars' travel to these locations without supervision. We will make sure that parents are aware of the concerns and reiterate the safety precautions/restrictions from home.	Fall 2017 - Revise safety plan to include immediate area beyond campus	Operations/Safety Team
<b>7. The school needs a security team</b>	VA&VCP does have forums where safety and security are discussed. We practice drills for fire,	Explore during summer 2017	Operations/ School Leaders

	tornadoes, and lock downs. We will continue to work to extend safety in areas beyond the school, as well as immediate functions that we constantly work to improve. We will explore configuring a team who has the responsibility for universal safety of all of our scholars, staff, and visitors. We acknowledge the need to continuously improve safety and security measures. We want to promote a climate where everyone understands that we all must be aware and vigilant, responsible, and accountable for campus safety.		
<b>8. Presence of staff outside during arrival and dismissal.</b>	VA&VCP have assigned posts in the morning (arrival) and afternoon (dismissal). Written plans have been developed that are daily implemented for safety and security. We will continue to plan for campus wide safety and security and explore ways to continuously improve.	Fall 2017 Summer review Ongoing...revise arrival and dismissal plans accordingly.	Operations and school leaders
<b>9. No supervision during drop off and pick up; no order in parking lot; and no one crossing kids in the morning or afternoon.</b>	This is not a correct assessment. We have supervision in the morning and afternoon. We have a presence in strategic high traffic areas. We will continuously explore better ways to improve safety and security. In terms of order in the parking lot we try to facilitate order throughout the day by managing the gate system. Drop off and pick up are high volume moments where dynamics must be purposefully managed with the resources we have available. However, we will continue to improve.	Fall 2017 Summer review Ongoing...revise arrival and dismissal plans accordingly.	Operations and school leaders
<b>10. Improve Emergency procedures</b>	VA&VCP has a crisis management team that works with the appropriate parties to develop emergency	Ongoing...Review for fall 2017	Operations and school leaders

	procedures. We also work with the National Charter Institute which provides our operation's staff with policies from national and state levels to make sure that we are prepared for threats to school.		
<b>11. P/A Intercom system that connects all buildings</b>	As of the 2016/2017 school year, communication infrastructure was added that enables communications between all buildings. The action was comprehensive and includes phones, and Wi-Fi. The PA/Intercom systems have to be explored for comprehensive abilities to communicate. Currently the P/A systems are limited and warrant assessing connecting both systems together.	Fall 2017	Operations

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Item/Description</b>	<b>Time/frame</b>	<b>Lead/support</b>
<b>Academics</b>			
<b>1. Concerns about grading system; specifically understanding how grades are calculated. Having grades accurate the first time.</b>	An analysis of grading systems need to be reviewed and shared across grade levels to ensure consistency and accuracy.	Summer 2017	Dean of Instruction/Dean of Students/ School Leaders
<b>2. Suggests more classes with musical instruments.</b>	School leaders may explore with music teachers the feasibility of adding instruments to music class.	Fall 2017	School Leader / Dean of Instruction

<b>3. Program needed to direct students to trade schools who are not interested in college.</b>	VCP focus is college prep; however, at times of identifying students who may not be college ready, this may be an option.	Explore for fall 2017	School leaders/College advisory
<b>4. General education staff need to read and be familiar with student who have an IEP.</b>	Provide professional development for all staff regarding the improvement of delivering services to students with special needs.	Summer 2017	School leaders / GPS
<b>5. Improve the communications around advisory so that parents can better understand its purpose. Parent has not received communications from advisory in years.</b>	Deploy a PD for advisory staff and monitor communications between advisors and parents.	Fall 2017	School Leaders/advisory team
<b>6. Stronger curriculum comparable to suburban schools; more comprehensive.</b>	The curriculum is continuously monitored for needed improvements. Exploratory measures will be implemented to ensure that curriculum is strong and effective.	Ongoing	School Improvement Team
<b>7. Foreign language(s) offered for elementary and middle school.</b>	This has been a consideration of the past and leaders are aware of the demand for a second language in the middle school and possibly elementary. Determinations will be made for the future and shared with parents.	Fall 2018	School Leader
<b>8. Would like for students to have access to text books and other tangible learning</b>	School leaders assess the need for books to go home and determine if such a format is	Fall 2017	School leader/Dean of Instruction

<b>resources.</b>	needed..		
<b>9. Stronger plans needed to help students who are failing.</b>	There are systems in place to help students who are struggling; such as tutoring, Wall Street, and Office. These programs will be explored for potential improvements and more efficient and effective implementation.	Fall 2017	Instructional leadership team/TST/teaching staff
<b>10. Professional development for general education teachers on how to deal with special education students.</b>	School leaders and GPS will work together to provide professional development to strengthen this important area.	Summer 2017 PD	School leader/GPS
<b>11. Ensuring that staff is certified, knowledgeable and consistent (staff retention.)</b>	School leaders and APS will continue to work together to improve selection and retention processes.	Ongoing	School leadership/APS
<b>11. Excessive testing during science fair is a concern.</b>	Science fair chair and school leaders will plan major projects with communications across the curriculum.	Fall 2017	Dean of Instruction and chair for science fair

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Item/Description</b>	<b>Time/frame</b>	<b>Lead/support</b>
<b>Communication</b>			
<b>1. Bilingual staff to comprehensively assist families who speak primarily Spanish.</b>	A conscious purposeful effort has been made to increase bilingual staff. These efforts will continue to better service families that have ESL needs.	Ongoing	School leader

<b>2. Would like ability to have more access to teachers regarding grading and if children are confused about homework or other assignments.</b>	Advisory initiatives will be implemented to increase communications between home and school.	Ongoing	School leader
<b>3. Better response to emails...sometimes a response is not made</b>	Efforts will be made to better monitor responses to parents and guardians.	Ongoing	School leader /All staff
<b>4. More Spanish translators are needed during school meetings and events.</b>	We are making provisions to have translation capabilities in all facets of our operations, including meetings, verbal communications, and print.	Ongoing	School leader / Operations
<b>5. No one answers phones in the office...Never!</b>	Efforts will be made to better monitor responses to parents and guardians.	Ongoing	Operations
<b>6. Improve three-way communications between parents, teachers, and students.</b>	Home to school communications is continuously assessed for improvements. More forums and procedures will be explored to better triangular communications.	Ongoing	All staff/school Improvement/ advisory
<b>7. Follow up with parents regarding issues and problems.</b>	Processes will be explored to provide back-up when parents cannot reach primary contacts.	Ongoing	All Staff / Advisory
<b>8. Better communications around special projects and assignment that impact student grades such as</b>	VA&VCP have assigned posts in the morning (arrival) and afternoon (dismissal). Written plans have been developed that are daily implemented for safety and	Ongoing	Teachers / Dean of Instruction

<b>sciences projects.</b>	security. We will continue to plan for campus wide safety and security and explore ways to continuously improve.		
<b>9. Communications needed regarding why there are no text books for most subjects (to take home)</b>	Leaders will explain what resources are needed to effectively provide instruction and means of practicing skills.	Summer	School leader / Dean of Instruction / Advisors

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Item/Description</b>	<b>Time/frame</b>	<b>Lead/support</b>
<b>Discipline</b>			
<b>1. School operates like a prison</b>	The concern voiced; students hanging around after school with no purpose. Response: Analyze the process for managing post school events and assess the school's performance regarding how scholars are moved to their activities. Also, holding stations need realignment based on parent needs. For example, siblings involved in after school activities having relatives who are not (where do they go). All scholars should have a constructive purpose and are welcome to be at the school. What must be avoided is the scholar without a purpose.	Summer 2017	Dean of Culture/ School leaders



<b>2. Too many students appear to be in the hallway</b>	Safety patrol may be explored as an extracurricular activity (Esp. for MS). This topic will be explored in the appropriate forum with the leadership team	Fall 2017	Dean of Culture / Hall monitors
<b>3. Better hallway transitions</b>	This is not correct. The camera internally and externally are functional. The surveillance system is a critical part of our security. However, we prefer to use the system for surveillance and security; not to solve problems of lost items.	Fall 2017	Dean of Culture / Hall monitors

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Item/Description</b>	<b>Time/frame</b>	<b>Lead/support</b>
<b>Parent Engagement</b>			
<b>1. Would like more parent engagement opportunities helping parents better understand academic demands; not just when child is in trouble.</b>	The school leaders and appropriate staff will explore more parent engagement strategies for 2017/18. Exploration will include parent groups.	Ongoing 2017	Dean of Family / Advisory
<b>2. Family literacy events to help parents help their children.</b>	The school improvement team will plan family activities and events to devise ways for parents to better assist students at home.	Fall 2017	Dean of Instruction / School Improvement Team

<p><b>3. Would like to have input into planning events for students such as prom, fundraising, graduations, etc.</b></p>	<p>VAPCO and other parent groups will be leveraged to provide ideas and suggestion for input.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>School Leaders / Dean of Family</p>
<p><b>4. I would like to see more opportunities for parents to volunteer at the school.</b></p>	<p>VAPCO and other parent groups will be leveraged to provide ideas and suggestion for input.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Dean of Family / School Leaders</p>
<p><b>5. Teachers need to provide extra resources for student learning and practice via internet and websites. (Khan Academy, Purple Match, Math.com, etc.</b></p>	<p>Teachers will be directed to include learning resources in their syllabuses and online resources.</p>	<p>Fall 2017</p>	<p>Advisory / Dean of Instruction</p>
<p><b>6. Improve organization of after school programs.</b></p>	<p>An after school team will work with operations and appropriate staff, coaches and other who direct programs to ensure that activities are effective and efficient.</p>	<p>Fall 2017</p>	<p>Dean of Culture / After school Programming Team</p>
<p><b>7. Need for after-care program for parents that get off work after dismissal times.</b></p>	<p>The school leaders and Dean of family, along with operations will assess parent demand for after-care and provide a program to meet the needs accordingly configuring a team who has the responsibility for universal safety of all of our scholars, staff, and visitors. We acknowledge the need to continuously improve safety and security measures. We want to promote a climate where everyone understands that we all must be aware and vigilant, responsible, and accountable for campus safety.</p>	<p>Summer 2017</p>	<p>School Leaders / After School Team</p>

Other:

Improve Lunch program - Operations

Need more transportation - Operations