

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Student Voice in Action Committee
Monday, February 26, 2024 @ Canton High School Media Center
Agenda

Committee Attendees: Deena Khalil, E'Leena Bullock, Elijah Wilson, Emma Krupa, Evan Zhen, Evayla Georgieva, Hudson Lloyd, Iniya Mudaliyar, Jo Fessler, Joshua Patterson, Juliet Jakubik, Jushen Sidhu, Lasya Jalari, Lina Mohammad, Mahika Srivastava, Marianna Vespa, Max Krinke, Maya Alomary, Mohamad Alomary, Riley Tulgetske, Riley Zajas, Sadie Anthony, Sae Pawar, Sara Alassi, Sophia North, Sylvia Black, Yash Kalani, Zachary Patterson, Superintendent Monica Merritt, Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu, Vice President Lauren Christenson, and McKenna Pierce

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Vice President Lauren Christenson. The subcommittee went around and introduced themselves.

Review Minutes from January 29, 2024

Sae Pawar asked the SVA committee to review the minutes. The minutes from January 29, 2024, were reviewed. The meeting notes from January 29, 2024, were moved as amended by Hudson Lloyd and seconded by Evan Zhen. Everyone in attendance approved the January 29, 2024 meeting minutes.

Welcome from Co-Chairs and Review SVA Norms

The SVA committee reviewed the new printed posters containing the committee's 2023-2024 norms.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Nutrition Services: Small Group Activity

Students were divided into groups of four to discuss the last meeting's discussion on the district's middle and high school lunch menus. Students were tasked with reflecting and coming up with questions they may have. Each group will come up with two initiatives they would like to implement at P-CCS that directly impact the free meal menu provided to Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

It was suggested that more food lines be implemented at the middle school level since most schools have one line. Another group suggested using paper plates instead of styrofoam plates to be more environmentally conscious. After discussion, students believed that we could go a step further and use all reusable materials. Cost and labor are the two main obstacles preventing this from happening.

The next group suggested more lunch options for people who eat a vegan and Halal diet, this also means more choices day to day. The specialty diet menu options should be in separate lines. Last meeting, an idea to pre-order lunches was discussed to eliminate food waste and increase the opportunity for students to get their top choice food items. Students liked this idea and would like to initiate this program, since it works at the elementary level, but understand that students come late and could have other limitations.

Students shared a new composting program that could prevent food waste. At P-CEP, various clubs and classes could use food scraps or other composting materials to make an environmental impact, such as the gardening club and AP Environmental Science (APES).

Dress Code in the Student Handbook: Small Group Activity

Chart paper was placed on all of the tables in the Media Center with each standard of the Dress Code in the Student Handbook. Students are going to move across the room in groups of two to three and write down clarifying questions, comments, and concerns. The subcommittee is encouraged to reply to each other's comments to figure out how to best make edits to the handbook.

One student read the comments from each standard. Comments were as follows:

- **Standard:** Garments may not expose underclothing.
 - **SVA comments:** agrees that undergarments is a broad statement that needs to be clarified to prevent sexualizing students.
- **Standard:** Back, midriff, buttocks and cleavage must be covered. ~~No bare midriffs.~~
 - **SVA comments:** Clarify how many inches of your back needs to be covered
- **Standard:** No clothing with sexual content or inferences, drug, alcohol, or tobacco references.
 - **SVA comments:** Mainly illegal and would promote underage activity.
- **Standard:** Clothing with references to or that advocates the use of illegal substances or activities, that advocates violence, or that contains offensive language/material or inferences is strictly prohibited.
 - **SVA comments:** Comments suggested this is too broad. Could you wear something promoting anti-drugs?
 - Is horror movie clothing a dress code violation?
- **Standard:** No dark tinted glasses or sunglasses indoors except for prescription transition lenses.
 - **SVA comments:** People can use these to disguise themselves
- **Standard:** Clothing that contains messages that are defamatory or discriminating toward another group or individual is prohibited.
 - **SVA comments:** Too broad.
- **Standard:** Students may not wear items considered potentially dangerous. This includes but is not limited to, ~~chains (what type)~~ of any kind, pointed rings or pendants, metal spikes.
 - **SVA comments:** There needs to be a limit or better clarification, and based on the description, a student wearing basic everyday jewelry could be dress-coded.
 - "Pendant" is not clear to the students
- **Standard:** Any clothing, jewelry, or insignia that is gang related is prohibited.
 - **SVA comments:** What is a "gang" defined as? Is it a dangerous group?
- **Standard:** Hat, caps, visors, hood, bandannas, ~~and sunglasses~~ are not to be worn in the classroom or building while school is in session, with the exception of religious or cultural headwear, unless approved by the building principal or their designee.
 - **SVA comments:** Overall, students believed bandanas should be removed from the handbook.

- Students don't believe this is being mandated equally across the district or even teachers-to-teacher
- **Standard:** Elementary students must wear closed-toe shoes during gym and/or if they are playing on the **playground (is this possible??)**. If a student wears open toe shoes to school, they must change shoes for gym or recess activities.
 - **SVA comments:** Students agreed that this is a necessary rule that should be followed.
- **Standard:** The administration reserves the right to prohibit clothing not specifically listed above that creates a material disruption of the learning process. **(What does this mean?)**
 - **SVA comments:** Too broad. What is a disruption of the learning process and who is defined as the administration?
- **Standard:** **Students can wear hats and hoodies in the hallways**

Overall, the Dress Code guidelines are too broad and leave too much room for misunderstanding. Explanations and definitions would be beneficial. Could create a process to appeal the dress code violation. Some students believe the dress code shouldn't exist. While other students believe there should be restrictions, they mostly target female-presenting students and attire. A survey could be sent out to the district to ask students and the community how they feel about certain rules.

Update on Board of Education Meeting and Subcommittee Meetings

Students provided updates from each of the other subcommittee meetings.

[Finance & Operations Committee Minutes](#)

[Policy Advisory Committee Minutes](#)

[Student Performance and Achievement \(SPA\) Committee Minutes](#)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by Joshua Patterson.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday, March 18, 2024

Monday, April 15, 2024

Monday, May 20, 2024