

County Student Advisory Council Update to the Board

May 12, 2011



As the County Schools work with our plan, do, study, act model for continuous improvement, there are several advisory groups that inform this work. Our County Student Council is a key advisory group, because as a group of stakeholders, they are well-informed and have a large stake in our work. Students on the advisory are in a prime place to inform our **planning** at the division level; additionally, each year, they are involved with much “**doing**” at their schools.

In the fall of 2009, students from all four high schools and CATEC, committed to the long term project of establishing County Student Advisory Council (CSAC) as a well-organized entity that would have governing procedures and regular meetings. As you will see from the attached Constitution and Bylaw, the students have followed through on their commitments.

Students and their sponsors should be commended for their work. A typical meeting begins with a pre-agenda meeting with a member of the executive council for the hosting school, the school-advisor, and the central office advisor. This meeting takes place a week in advance. Each meeting generally consists of an ice-breaker or leadership development, discussion and debate about the agenda items, and decisions about next steps on particular items. Meetings are run by the students, and it has been great to watch five different schools really begin to mesh and work toward the big picture for the County.

At our last meeting on April 26, at Murray High School, students brainstormed items about which they may want to advise the School Board. I explained that agenda items are short, and Board agendas are packed, so we should give the Board some choices and let the discourse flow from them. Here is what they brainstormed:

1. Constitution development and agreement, a supportive relationship among the student leadership across schools.
2. Our council is student run, and each school hosts approximately two meetings per year.
3. We are the first County Student Counsel made up of all five schools to meet on a monthly basis all year to “synchronize the schools.”
4. Advising school administration on policies for school dances.
5. The “We Notice!” program.
6. The “Share the Love” program.
7. Feedback on the schools’ schedules and the school system budget.
8. All Night Long

We invited a student or two from each school who felt they could make the meeting. Also, advisors from the schools are invited. I propose that the CSAC be given the opportunity to meet the Board annually. We should probably target a date for earlier in the year for next year and future years.