

Mendota Township High School
No Pass/No Play Committee Minutes
December 1, 2010
6:00 p.m.

The No Pass/No Play Committee meeting was held in the high school boardroom on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. Darlene Ayers called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The following people were present:

Jeff Prusator, Superintendent	Denise Aughenbaugh, Principal
Joe Masini, Asst. Principal	John McKenzie, Ath. Director
Darlene Ayers, Board Member	Jim Lauer, Board Member
David May, Board Member	Brock Sondgeroth, Teacher/Coach

Also in attendance were MHS parents and members of the media. Absent was Tom Bauer, Board Member.

Mr. Prusator gave the group a brief summary of the reason for the meeting and formation of committee. On a recommendation from Mr. Bauer, the school board is researching the possible change in the eligibility requirements for students involved in extra-curricular activities in response to the addition of Period 8.

Mrs. Aughenbaugh reported that she has surveyed approx. 20 high schools and has found that most follow the minimum IHSA guidelines (4 academic classes must have passing grades to be eligible). Other variations were also noted: Minimum GPA, 3 week consecutive failure, Review Board, and Probationary period. 5 schools had a no pass/no play type of guideline.

Discussion followed.

Tom Bauer arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Jim Lauer asked for breakdown of schools with more definition. Very small schools, eligibility impacts only a handful of students. Are the schools that have a different policy than the IHSA guidelines pleased with their policies?

Discussion led to the following points:

- 1) Students may be hesitant to challenge themselves if they are afraid of failing one class and not being allowed to participate in the extracurricular activities. (Lauer)
- 2) Conclusive evidence not available that NP/NP actually benefits the student academic performance. There are numerous factors that influence performance. (Ayers)
- 3) Students may be taking extra classes just to be assured that 4 core classes are being passed. (May)
- 4) Privilege to play sports or participate in extracurricular. Education comes first. Don't feel the need to have proof from other schools about NP/NP. Do what's best for our students. Feels NP/NP is what is best for MHS. (Bauer)

- 5) Can see both sides. Kids in sports have grades that many times excel during the sport or extracurricular season. (Sondgeroth)

Mr. Prusator described three types of students at MHS:

- 1) Students who CAN and DO.
- 2) Students who COULD and DON'T.
- 3) Students who TRY and CAN'T.

Curriculum is different that 5, 10, 20 years ago. Most students are challenged 7 periods a day. Do we want to punish the students who are truly trying?

Discussion followed.

Athletic Director, John McKenzie feels that extracurriculars are underestimated in the role they play in academics. Are we targeting the right audience?

Ideas to allow for buffers for those who are truly struggling no matter what type of help or assistance they receive.

Parent, Michelle Wade spoke of the students who with NP/NP would lose their drive; especially if they are struggling in 1 class and are truly doing their best but still failing.

Tom Bauer asked for staff ideas for safety nets/buffers for students who truly struggle.

Asst Principal, Joe Masini asked if there were other ways to challenge our students. Mr. Masini also spoke of 8th period attendance.

Further discussion followed.

Mrs. Aughenbaugh, Principal noted that MHS wants to continue with the rigor of curriculum for our students while also maintaining the fidelity and fairness of grades.

Mr. Prusator suggested looking into options through the rest of the school year and into the summer. Directing a possible faculty committee to research options that would achieve results. Explore options that address our current eligibility concerns. Not rushing into any changes until options and consequences are fully addressed.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Bauer, seconded by Lauer to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Phalen,