

FIRST SITE-BASED MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2019

SITE-BASED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

William Bernhard, WMHS Principal

Stephanie DiLorenzo, Art Teacher

Cortney Weisman, Art Teacher

James Walker, Head Custodian

Jessica Deedy, Child Nutrition, Head Cook

Heather Fortner, PTSA President and Parent Representative

Jenny Barnett, Student Representative

Tabitha Fortner, Student Representative

Michael Marchese, Student Representative

Riley Meckley, Student Representative

Sarah Thornton, Student Representative

October 22, 2019 Attendees:

William Bernhard, Stephanie DiLorenzo, Cortney Weisman, Jessica Deedy, Heather Fortner, Jenny Barnett, Tabitha Fortner, Riley Meckley

Mr. Bernhard: Our Board of Ed plan is up for renewal and to be in compliance we need all students new to our SBMT committee to be trained on November 14.

We must take minutes and within a week, they must be posted to our website.

All members took turns introducing themselves.

Mr. Bernhard: We usually meet every other month. One proposal for this year was an idea to revise the look of our cafeteria, to turn it into a mall-type setting. We can adjust the look of the cafeteria to foster a more conversational, home-like community, to really change the environment.

Ms. Weisman: We visited a High School in Virginia and saw a cafeteria and all of our jaws dropped. They had booths on wheels, charging hubs on café tables, all on wheels. It was almost like our library set-up, but with food and graphic designs on the walls!

Ms. Deedy: I also saw a beautiful remodel in Central Islip and South Hampton cafeteria with wood floors and a glass partition.

Ms. DiLorenzo: The library and the cafeteria become the hub for students. Maybe we can allow students to go outside of their friend circle and move around with tables and chairs on wheels to socialize with different groups—almost like a college campus feel.

Mr. Bernhard: Let's ask the students. Can you envision this?

Jenny Barnett: Definitely. Especially the charging stations.

Riley Meckley: The color of the walls is important. Blue can be depressing.

Tabitha Fortner: I agree with both Jenny and Riley.

Mr. Bernhard: I will talk with our architect, John Grillo. Heather (Fortner), what do you think?

Ms. Fortner: I agree the cafeteria is "blah" and institutional-looking. I think this is a great idea.

Ms. Deedy: Yes, we should get rid of the "garage doors" and replace with a glass partition.

Ms. Fortner: Has the district approved a budget for this?

Mr. Bernhard: I spoke with the Superintendent. We can design what we think would be great. I'm excited about launching this project!

Ms. Deedy: And new floors would make it home-like!

Ms. DiLorenzo & Ms. Weisman add that the vinyl "shrink wrap" would be a great addition and can be updated every few years.

Ms. Fortner: And a place for a student wellness center would please parents. Students have a lot more pressures and stress than teachers have as adults.

Mr. Bernhard: Our security office in the commons area could become a student wellness center. Also, my dream is going outside the Commons and having the outdoors as a common area too. Sometimes these experiences don't come to fruition, but we have a goal and we will try to bring it to a success. Everyone here will have a little "homework" to do.

Mr. Bernhard asks again if all are in favor and all reply "Yes"

Ms. Weisman passes around a video taken of a school cafeteria in Virginia.

Mr. Bernhard: So what do we all envision? What do we want to do?

Members call out: Booths on wheels, mobile furniture, wheeling chairs, charging booths.

Ms. Weisman: This can also solve the issue with chromebooks not being charged and ready for class.

The members continue calling out ideas: hanging signs, designs on walls, very colorful.

Ms. Fortner: When students are super-stressed, maybe students can take a moment and not just run to the Nurses Office. Perhaps this would be a separate project from the cafeteria.

Tabitha Fortner: How large is the Security Office?

Mr. Bernhard: Maybe we should just focus on the cafeteria this year and have the Site-Based Committee take on just the cafeteria for next school year. The other idea is exciting but may be too much for one project.

Mr. Bernhard: Anything else?

Committee member: A wall that separates cafeteria from Commons, maybe a glass wall would be nice.

Ms. Deedy: A café-style like South Hampton. I will get pictures.

Mr. Bernhard: Ok, so we all have homework to do. I'll ask about finance-backing. Next time we'll all take a field trip to the cafeteria. We should meet again in November, ok? Is Monday or Tuesday better?

Most Committee Members call out that Monday is better.

Mr. Bernhard: So it will be Monday, November 25, before Thanksgiving and then we'll meet again in December before our holiday break.

Ms. Weisman: Can James (Walker) measure the cafeteria and let us know how many seats we'd need? And how many students are in each lunch period?

Mr. Bernhard: Sure. So we're asking for a little in-house construction....

Ms. Weisman: It can be a project for our Advanced Graphic Design class

Ms. DiLorenzo: Can we look at catalogs?

Mr. Bernhard: We can budget, propose and incorporate into next year's budget to use in May 2020 for the following school year of 2020-2021.

Ms. Weisman asks students: What type of things would you want on the walls?

Students call out: School colors, also with positive thoughts and words.

Ms. Weisman passed around her cell phone for students to view her video of the Virginia school cafeteria.

Mr. Bernhard: So moving forward, we'll work on investigating, looking at catalogs and we'll come together next month with ideas. I'll look into budgeting.

Ms. Weisman: As a student, it can be very awkward if you don't have a friend in the cafeteria. Of all the periods, lunch period is the most difficult not to have a friend. With this set-up, students aren't forced to sit at the end of a full table of students who are already friends.

Mr. Bernhard: Thank you all so much. I'm excited about our plan! We'll meet again on Monday, November 25.