

**PARADISE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT – SECONDARY
Dr. John Weimer – Assistant Superintendent**

High School Graduation Committee Minutes January 27, 2005 – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM:

- Members in Attendance: Dr. Weimer, Jon Walk, Jeff Billings, Bev Lewis, Jean Scharrer, Marti Marziani, Kayce Sanchez, Mitch von Gnechten, Susan Benjamin, Ronnie Milburn, Susie Waldrom, Laura Lamberto-White, Julia Zandler. Guests: Dr. Jeff Smith, Director of Curriculum and Joel Boutelle, PVHS Attendance Dean.

Set Up

- Ground rules were read and reviewed. A call for changes or additions...none heard.
- Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes from January 13, 2005, minutes were approved.
- Today's agenda was reviewed.

Committee Input

Emails regarding the PE issue were distributed to committee members. Dr. Weimer shared his meeting earlier today with the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. This council consists of high school principals and the student body presidents who meet monthly with the Superintendent. The question was posed as to what the students' opinions are of the comments/pending decisions of the High School Graduation Committee regarding physical education. All of the students stated that they prefer the type of PE curriculum that we've been describing but apparently doesn't currently exist. None of them wanted PE eliminated. They simply did not see a good reason for eliminating it. They also stated that they do not agree with waivers for after school athletes.

We still have not received input from the PE department regarding copies of curriculum being used. We requested something in writing at the last meeting, but nothing has been received.

Mr. Jablin was absent today but met with Dr. Weimer on Wednesday. He expressed the importance of creating a K-12 Sequence, but not necessarily a Scope.

Dr. Weimer distributed a copy of House Bill 2514. (Handout) This proposed bill was reviewed by members. The bill does not allow for waivers.

Dr. Weimer distributed copies of the article in the *Arizona Republic* written by Ophelia Madrid regarding PE. (Handout) Dr. Weimer commended Ms. Ophelia for the accuracy of content. A list of PE teacher seniority was also distributed to committee members. (Handout)

Around the Table

Dr. Weimer went around the table asking for comments and opinions from each member. Comments included:

- We need a PE program that draws all kids, not just the athletes.
- Electives should be interest-driven and kids should have a choice.
- It is the teacher's responsibility to provide programs that interest and draw kids.
- Counselors should have the ability to place students in appropriate classes to meet individual needs.
- Health, nutrition and fitness should be a main focus.
- We need consistency in the district PE curriculum and no repetition of activities from middle school to high school.
- We should require PE but kids should have the ability/option of taking it in the summer to fulfill their schedules on a nonprofit basis.
- One year of PE is not going to eliminate obesity.

- In other required courses we look at the curriculum every 3-5 years to make sure we are meeting state standards and keeping curriculum updated. This isn't being done in PE.
- We need to update the curriculum and keep up with the times. The kids need to learn things that will benefit them as adults, such as fitness, nutrition, and the importance of working out.
- We need a variety of choices that will appeal to the kids and at the same time promote physical fitness awareness.
- There should be waivers and adaptive PE.
- It is the parent's responsibility to teach nutrition and fitness at home.
- Taking IPE as a freshman will not make kids more physically fit.
- Obesity doesn't start in high school and requiring PE in high school is not going to combat it.
- One member distributed a list of Mesa district PE offerings. (Handout) List was varied and well accepted by members.
- What's good for students should be our priority.
- If students don't value PE they shouldn't be forced to take it. We need to allow them options.
- Intro to PE as it is now will not instill nutrition and activity. We've asked for the Scope and Sequence and current curriculum and we have yet to see it.
- We need exit outcomes and assessment in PE like is required in other courses.
- I'm not convinced that IPE is meeting our needs or is any different than what is being taught in middle school.
- If PE doesn't fit into a schedule it's because of student choices.
- If PE is required we must have a definitive curriculum that is used and not kept in a file drawer. What's happening now is not satisfactory.
- Being ill or infirm makes one realize the importance of being fit. We need fitness/nutrition skills, not necessarily how to shoot a basketball or serve a volleyball.

Consensus of Committee Proposals:

- 2 semesters required – choice of courses
- 1 semester defined – 1 semester of choice
- Eliminate PE requirement – PE would become an elective

These remaining options would eliminate Introductory PE as the requirement. Next meeting we need to narrow these proposals down to one.

Waivers

Next meeting we will begin with a discussion of waivers from any PE requirement. Some possible waivers to think about are: (committee input)

- Health concerns
- Crowded schedule – principal determines
- Athletic participation
- Marching band
- ROTC
- Testing out
- Outside physical participation (TBD)
- Religious beliefs
- New senior students
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Committee members received a packet of articles and district policies from around the country regarding waivers from the P.E. requirement. We will review these in preparation for the discussion at the next meeting. We also need to look at, and possibly define, graduation equivalencies, which are separate from waivers.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m. Next meeting: February 10, 2005 3:00-5:00 p.m. – Ivory Room at the CRC.