JFKS High School Faculty Meeting – December 12, 2018
Summary for Parent Council

Top. 1 – Miscellaneous:

- **Guys and Dolls Musical**: being performed again this weekend.
- **Klausur Schedule** -newest version had been made available on GDrive for all to view.
- **MSA und Abi:** A teacher asked for all students turning in MSA or Klausurenarbeit project work to be have to submit a digital copy of their sources used to the sponsoring teacher.
- **Faculty meeting** has been scheduled for 4pm as it appears to be required as a "Gesamtversammlung" and allows teachers working up until 4pm to participate. It may be possible to start again at 3:15pm though if it is a "Teilversammlung". The administration is checking into this.
- **Anti-Mobbing/Bullying** – next meeting of subcommittee is to be held on Jan.8th. Request for more teachers to participate in the working group. So far there are German teachers only. The administration will work with a group at the University of Potsdam to develop and administer a survey to further understand when and where bullying has taken place at the school.

Top. 1 – Brian Salzer recruiting new American teachers: Mr. Salzer encouraged teachers to spread the word among former colleagues and their network that the JFK HS is specifically looking for American teachers for English, Math, Computer Science and a female Sports teacher. Word of mouth and recommendation is often the best source for recruiting new teachers.

Top. 2 – Working Groups: Continuation and follow up to work done in previous teacher workshops. Working group topics were:

i)   Prevention @ institutional level
ii)   Prevention @ pedagogical level
iii)   Intervention
iv)   HS Mission Statement
v)   Smart Phone Policy

Teachers were thanked for their participation in workshops to date. The next step is to draft a resolution to provide to the School Conference to make changes to school policies based on the outcome of working group proposals. The meeting was then run as a further brainstorming and working session to refine proposals on the above topics. Topics (i-iii) were focused on anti-bullying/mobbing policies.

Working group tables were set up for each of the topics above. Faculty members were asked to select 2 topics that are interested in and to participate in the working sessions focused on those topics. Proposals developed in the last workshop were used as the starting point for group discussion.   The groups then had 10-20 minutes to discuss the topic in their group and to suggest potential modifications. This exercise was repeated again for the 2nd topic selected. At the end of the working session, each teacher was given 4 votes to review the proposals and to prioritize the top 4 items that they would like to see implemented next year.

With regard to the Smart Phone Policy, ALL teachers were asked to provide their view on the proposed Smart Phone Policy. They could either a) agree with, b) Agree with modifications, or c) Reject the proposal. From what I observed, views varied, but most teachers seemed to agree that the technology is here to stay and that a policy is needed. One point of focus was how to enforce potential policy changes and ensure they are being followed. A number of teachers mentioned that mobile phone usage in their classrooms was not an issue that interferes with class work. Other teachers highlighted the need to specifically define which devices would be covered by a policy (i.e. laptops, tablets, smart phones, …). A number of teachers noted that students use phones to communicate with others on projects or regarding club activities, making a ban of phones counterproductive. There was also a question that if parents are concerned that their children are using phones too much, why do they allow students to bring them to school?

The results of the working group discussions and proposals were to be summarized into draft policies based on inputs during this meeting. The results were not available at the end of the meeting. Teachers were highly engaged in energized debate throughout the meeting.

Notes taken by Nancy Voke