

Memo

To: Michael Green
From: John Shoup
CC: School Board Members
Date: 6/6/11
Re: Navigation 101/OT and policy 3242

We are now 2 ½ years into our Navigation 101 and Opportunity Time (OT) school-wide interventions to help our students be better prepared for their future. During this time, we have come to realize that we have made some good progress, but after attending a conference in November 2010, our Navigation Leadership team knew that we had to make some changes. Therefore, we had a group of up to 15 staff members participate in regular meetings to bring about a “fusing” of our OT and Navigation programs.

We are pleased with the work of our committee and their change recommendations. I am proud of how our staff has worked to find positive tweaks to a program. There are several important changes to what we are doing that I want to make you aware of as well as request that we change current school board policy to support our plan. Here are the significant changes:

1. We will place our students in OT/NAV advisory groups daily and they will travel to their advisor after 3rd period. Students will stay with their advisor throughout their high school career, but will have the ability to change advisors one time if a conflict develops.
2. Students will be able to earn ½ credit each year for completing their student portfolio work and meeting a specific standard for their student led conference. This will allow a student to earn up to 26 credits during a 4-year tenure instead of the current 24. We are not proposing changing the graduation requirements.
3. If students meet certain academic, attendance, and behavior standards, they will be allowed to use Thursday’s and Friday’s for extended lunches, study sessions, or other projects they feel they need to work on. This will apply to all of our students. Students will not be allowed to have this “extra” time until the first progress report grade check. Parents of 9th and 10th graders would be asked for permission to allow their students to leave campus during this time. We believe this will be highly motivational for many of our students. Current board policy states:

3242 CLOSED CAMPUS

Elementary and Middle School students shall remain on school grounds from time of arrival until close of school unless officially excused.

High School students remain on school grounds unless officially excused, but students with junior or senior academic standing are permitted to leave campus at lunchtime.

We propose the new board policy 3242 state the following for the 2nd paragraph:

High School students will remain on school grounds unless they are officially excused. During Opportunity Time and lunch, all students who have met clearly defined academic, behavioral and attendance standards and are permitted by their parents will be allowed to leave campus. Students with junior or senior academic standing are permitted to leave campus at lunchtime.

We recognize that we will have to find a method in which to monitor and track the 9th and 10th grade students who will be allowed to leave campus, particularly because that could change every grading period.

We believe working with smaller groups of students who have not met academic standards while other students enjoy extended lunches twice a week will prove much more productive than our current model. We did visit Fort Vancouver High School during the time our committee was working and we are hopeful that the information we gathered from their efforts combined with our best thoughts will help reduce the number of students with failing grades as well as provide positive reinforcements for those students who are already meeting or exceeding the academic, attendance and behavior standards.