



“Waimea Middle School empowers all students with the skills, values and cultural understanding to successfully navigate high school and beyond.”

Meeting Title:	WMS Local Advisory Panel (LAP) - FINAL
Date & Time:	5-6 pm, Monday, February 8, 2016 (4-5 pm Drug Education Presentation by LAP for WMS families and community)
Members Present:	<p>Community Reps: Colin Miura, Keawe Vredenburg, Jane Sherwood</p> <p>Family Reps: None in attendance</p> <p>Certificated Reps: Cherise Mundon (6th), Tisha Gusman (7th), Linda LoBue (8th)</p> <p>Classified Reps: Lori Ching</p> <p>WMS Admin: Amy Kendziorski , Janice English-Somerville</p> <p>Ho’okako’o Board: None present</p> <p>Ex Officio: Patti Cook</p>
	<p><u>Guests:</u></p> <p>Community Members: Pam Potter, Lisa Andrews, Nalani Andrews</p> <p>Ho’okako’o Staff: None present</p> <p><u>Excused:</u></p> <p>Community Reps: Patrick Hurney, Owana Wilcox</p> <p>Family Reps: Marcie Neubecker, Graham Ellis, Von Scott & Monique Wong</p> <p>Student Advisor: Eunice “Laz” Lazarus</p>

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1 & 2) This month’s meeting was unusual in that the first hour was dedicated to special presentation entitled DRUGS: What to Know, What to Look For, What to Do. This 60 minute presentation was held at the cafeteria and was co-sponsored by WMS LAP committee, Hawai’i County Police Department and Waimea Elementary School. Vice Officers Ed Lewis and John McCarron presented information and an exhibit regarding drugs available and used in our community in the hopes that heightened awareness can curtail usage. Additional to the Police Department presentation were

WMS LAP MEETING – February 8, 2016

representatives from Lokahi Treatment Center, BISAC and Hamakua Health. These speakers' presentations continue to share information from the varied perspectives of a former substance-using board certified physician and a certified substance abuse counselor, as Hamakua Health's director encouraged efforts of outreach to help the community without insurance coverage to take advantage of counseling available despite lack of insurance.

REGULAR LAP MEETING

Meeting segments are numbered to match the February 8th agenda, irregular as it is.

3) Colin called the regular second half of the LAP meeting to order at 5:12 pm. Quorum not confirmed. By-laws need to be reviewed to ensure membership attendance is in compliance for quorum. This matter will be determined at the next meeting on March 14, 2016.

In response to the January 11th meeting's request for earlier minutes' distribution, discussion ensued regarding the timeliness and dissemination of meeting minutes. Colin requested that the minutes from this point forward be distributed by Pam Potter directly to LAP committee members within two weeks after the meeting. They would then be reviewed by LAP committee members, with feedback given to Pam within one week's time to be implemented for the greater efficiency at the next LAP meeting when asked for minutes' approval. Patti Cook is to forward LAP committee member email roster and copies of attendance sheets to Pam to facilitate this change in procedure.

Additionally, Officer Nelson Cacho introduced himself as the School Resource Officer to the LAP committee. The plan is for him to have his presence known on campus. He is in uniform, getting to know the students, and presenting lessons in the classrooms.

Colin asked if anyone in the community wished to address the group. No one asked for time or offered any input.

2) Principal's Update - Amy Kendziorski

Celebrations:

- Plastics & Our Oceans outreach program, a partnership with the University of California-Santa Barbara, Kokua Hawaii Foundation, NOAA, Plastics Free Hawai'i and Plastic Pollution Coalition. Participation by WMS, Parker, and HPA students took place in Honolulu for a three day intense immersion into the science and public policy related to plastics and the harm done to coral reefs through pollution. Students got a sense of community among Pacific islanders, and how these efforts could impact the world. Through this project ideas were generated as to how this impact can be communicated to our legislators. WMS student Nalani Andrews shared her experience as a participant. Students made a plankton trap, dissected an albatross' regurgitation to find fishing line as an example of the pollution endangering ocean life. Nalani was positively enthusiastic about her participation in this project.
- Hawai'i Community Foundation/Connecting for Success' sponsored "Career Exploration Day" was a success, taking place on Wednesday, January 27th. Thanks to organizers Lori Ching, Suzi Herhold, Pat Rice and other faculty and staff's efforts. They included about 20 speakers representing areas such as the Coast Guard, Construction, KTA (thanks, Colin!), pig farming, medical, dental, high tech, archery, and Food Service in the hotels. Among the other highlights was a visit from Governor Ige, who toured the school. Thanks to all participants.
- Third Quarter Academic Performance and Attendance was addressed. A chart was shown indicating academic improvements across the board. As discussed in the last LAP meeting, this is a critical component in the charter school commission contract renewal process. Attendance is encouraged for students through free dress day (was on January 19th) and student certificates earned by measured improvement. Amy indicated attendance creates

WMS LAP MEETING – February 8, 2016

better performance. These are a continued focus and works toward the development of meaningful incentives for improved attendance. She is looking for incentive ideas.

- The construction update is that Isemoto Contracting continues to be on time. They volunteered with the Running Long Jump Pit and provided high quality sand. Discussion was raised in that some damage occurred to the sand as a result of driving/parking on it from random unaware participants in the Cherry Blossom Festival. It was suggested that some provision be made by placing obvious cones or sawhorses to prevent future parking in the sand in an effort to preserve what we have.
- The latest update regarding WMS Leadership is that our current interim principal, Amy Kendzioriski has applied for the position. Since she is an applicant, she is unable to discuss who else will apply or if anyone else has applied. HC will keep us informed on competition for the WMS principal position, as Amy cannot. There was a mention that applicants for the position are impacted by DOE vs. Charter School incentives, or lack thereof. It was asked as to how LAP will participate in this process.
- Incoming 6th Grade Family Orientation was mentioned. It is to take place on Wednesday, April 20th from 5-6:30 pm.
- There is a continuing need to emphasize the importance of reading by offering a resource to include some reading skills in all subjects. With this reading program in place, students can potentially double their growth. Last year was measured at a rate of 35, and was reported currently at 83.

It was explained that most students' reading levels begin 2-3 years below grade level. The measurements conducted were critical to establish a benchmark of groupings to define below grade level readers, grade level readers, or above grade level readers; also described as: "poetry" grade level, grade level, imagine learning and extremely behind. We are closing the gap among those students whose reading levels were measured below grade level by using the current programs in place, i.e., Language LIVE (for students 1-3 years behind grade level), the addition of Rebekah Tucker as reading instructor across all middle school, and ESL. YAY! An additional challenge was also discussed in that the higher achievers need to be pushed to improve as well.

Part of the "hot" conversation is how these definitions create groups of "like" readers who are similar but not as close as administrators would prefer. The neediest (most behind) group ideally should be in a smaller class size, if possible. We should continue to seek solutions.

We continue to look for more reading specialists, and the money to pay for them. Included in this need for continued improvement is for help in mathematics. The math department recommends the need for more math time, for all students, not just those in need of improvement. Tisha Gusman stated that whoever teaches, whatever the subject, needs to know math. It was mentioned that there was a program comparable to the reading programs for math at one time; but it only lasted one year, and therefore offered insufficient data to evaluate it or its effects properly. That program was, however, generally assessed as effective.

Gratitude was expressed to the Neilan Foundation for their financial support in providing the Language LIVE program and the acquisition of Rebekah Tucker, reading specialist.

Amy stated that the reading efforts for student improvement are dialed in, with successful results. The math efforts are being reviewed to see what needs to be strategically implemented. Linda LoBue is part of the RTI Accreditation program, looking at programs beyond computer involvement for improvement. Colin acknowledged the school's progress and we're happy that they are moving in the right direction. Community member Lisa Andrews cited her appreciation for different teaching styles to offer students a varied approach to learning.

WMS LAP MEETING – February 8, 2016

Keawe Vredenburg raised the issue of: we track reading and math. Are there steps to track student's abilities regarding writing? The ensuing discussion indicated yes. Projects, such as one writing assignment involving the definition of a hero was cited that several approaches to the subject were submitted (not everyone chose the same hero, that it was a more open-ended assignment including not just descriptions). Additionally, it was stated that other departments, such as social studies do assignments in support for writing skills, as well as the Cornell notes re: the AVID program.

It was raised that a good reader does not necessarily yield a good writer. It is important to find a flexible approach so students can search out subjects providing them with an opportunity to fall in love with writing.

Cherise Mundon reported that the final track meet, held on January 30 involved 24 students. 16 students went to Konawaena and yielded 29 medals. Each participating student got at least one medal. One student fell and was found to be dehydrated, but received a medal from Parks and Recreation. Congrats to the participants! Track and field will continue to address the importance of hydration. In the high jump, we had 2 new participants and came home with 4 medals. Again, kudos go to the Neilan Foundation for providing the high jump equipment (envied by other educational institutions) allowing students to compete in that event.

There was discussion regarding the hiring of a Family Outreach Engagement Coordinator. Amy reported that an ad was placed and that she was looking forward to interviewing this week, although these efforts yielded only one applicant thus far. Because of the wide variety of media available today, it is difficult to decide how to go about choosing where and how to advertise to facilitate casting a wider net. It was noted that our efforts to procure a reading specialist were most successful through word of mouth.

3) Continued Discussion About LAP'S Evolving Purpose – Colin Miura

Because the LAP committee meeting was running late due to the presentation, Colin requested we briefly address the agenda bullet points covering the formation of work groups to report out monthly at LAP:

- It was noted that student achievement/success programs were working and wanted to suggest that the school continue to use measurements to monitor progress. Measurements help us see what's working or not working. No one expects changes overnight, but even small improvements show progress.
- The Family Engagement group is still formulating tasks for this committee. It was acknowledged that the hiring of the Family Engagement Coordinator would help to determine the coordinator's duties and the assignments to the support committee (Graham Ellis, Marcie Neubecker, Von & Monique Wong, Lori Ching, Patti Cook).
- Mission: Minimum competencies and how to teach and support this – suggested focus on attendance – was addressed earlier in the meeting to create incentives for better attendance among those students with chronic attendance issues.
- Community Resource Development – Fund raising's committee (Jane Sherwood, Owana Wilcox, Dylan-Sage Wilcox, Gail Gimbel, Patti Cook) was challenged to develop guidelines to find what they are raising money for. They are seeking input from the faculty and administration for guidance.

Colin reminded us of the virtue of each committee's need to report their progress frequently and regularly.

Colin will not be here for the next LAP meeting to be held on March 14, 2016 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Janice English-Somerville will facilitate this meeting in his absence.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Submitted by Pam Potter