

Interview with Christina Mahoney about Site Council

Interview: About Site Council from a Student's perspective

Interviewer: Dung Nguyen

Date of Interview: May 22nd

Time of Interview: 1:12 am

Where: Century high School in the lecture hall

What is the Site Council?

Christina: Site Council is a group that meets once a month in the library and we discuss different things that are going on in the school district and we make decisions for different policies and things that come up in the school and we take a vote on it and then it goes to the board.

What are your responsibilities?

Christina: Well as a student on Site Council, my responsibilities are not as great as the other people's that are on it. Dave Morgan and I are two student representatives, so we sit through the meetings and we listen to what is said and we give input. They'll ask for input and a student view and we'll give them one but we don't have any specific responsibilities besides giving input.

How often do you meet?

Christina: We meet once a month at 6:45 in the morning, in the library.

Which administrators participate in this program?

Christina: Usually there is Mr. Struckmeier, Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Croley, and many more.

What is the typical agenda look like?

Christina: Sometimes we have a big piece of paper in there where we write our agenda down. Usually we just talk about anything that comes up. We each get a handout of different things we need to go through, sometimes it's talking about the schedule, like the trimester schedule or the Monday sessions and how those are going or just anything that comes up. We don't have a typical agenda that we go through every single time.

How did you get on the Site Council?

Christina: At a leadership retreat during this summer, we went down to the beach and there were eight or ten people that wanted to be on it and they had to be seniors. So we, as leadership class, took a vote on who was going to be on it and Dave and I were nominated so we were on it.

How do you feel about your participation on the Council?

Christina: As a student I can't really do that much and don't really have that many responsibilities. As for my participation, I give my voice or opinion whenever they ask for it and if they ever ask me to do anything I do it but as I said we're just there to listen and to give a voice so we don't do a lot of participating.

Do you feel the students or the parents have an equal voice as the administrators?

Christina: Yeah, they really do because on Site council there really weren't any parents, specific parents this year. I think there was two people didn't work at the school, I've never seen them here, and they came in here but we put an ad out for the parents who would like to be involved. So they have a chance to be on Site Council and actually come to the meetings and everything but we only got a couple of people to respond. So hopefully we will get more people in their next year and they do have an equal voice because they are free to go to or come to us or the principle or the board and give us their opinion or anything and discuss them and they're free to come to the meetings that they want and give their opinion on any specific thing.

As a group have you made any difference in the school?

Christina: Yeah. I think that we have. Especially with the new Monday schedule; we were in charge of planning that and how it's going to go, what different groups we're going to have. The meeting for that we had to have actually an extra meeting to decide how the agenda was going to go for the beginning of those meetings. So we kind of started that whole program and hopefully it's going good but that is one big way that we changed the school.

What have been some of the most important decisions you have participated in?

Christina: I think one of the most important decisions that we were able to participate in are the issues not to move to trimester. There was a big trimester scare earlier this year and a lot of the teachers were scared that we were going to go trimester because a lot of

them felt strongly about staying on the block schedule that were are on. So we were able to voice their opinions and kept it. We talked to different teachers and see how they felt on this issue. We, as a board decided against it and so we didn't move to trimester and we are on of the only schools in the district that decided to not move to it.

How do you see the school now compared to as when it just opened?

Christina: I think we've come a long way in a lot of things with the different group such as Site Council and the Critical Friends. Just the Monday or the things that are going on on the Mondays. There are a lot of preparations and stuff that needs to done on those days and that's something really good that we've accomplished and then with sports and just everything. We've come so far and won a lot of awards and progressed and everything.

Are you benefiting from this group?

Christina: I get satisfaction I guess out of doing my job. I like being informed, I like knowing what's going around me. I hate being the last person to know or the last person to hear so it's really nice to be on there, so that if anything there is anything in the district or the schools that is going on with the teachers then we're one of the first people to know about it then we hear the different views from people and we were able to make a decision from there and I really like being involved.

What kinds of tasks or duties do you have on a regular basis?

Christina: We don't have any specific tasks or as a student I don't have a specific task except to listen and give my opinion but we have different tasks we have to go by. We have kind of an agenda, it's different for every month that we have to go through and we have to move through and we have to vote on different things and we have to read over different issues and give our opinion on them.

Have you had any frustrations with the role of council?

Christina: No, actually it's been flowing pretty smoothly. We've had a couple pretty hot discussions, not with each other ever. I mean everyone gets along in there and stuff. Also some of the issues that come up have been really intense and big decisions that we need to make and sometimes we get kind of stuck on which decision and we have to do a little more research before making one but we really don't have any frustrations.

Are there any obstacles that keep the council from achieving its goals?

Christina: Not necessarily any obstacles. Maybe sometimes an issue comes up and we're not well informed about it so we have to do some more research before we can go ahead and make a decision on it or we're not aware of how different teachers and different people feel on the issues so then we have to do a little bit more work before we were able to do that.