

Linkage Meeting
January 7, 2009
Los Dos Restaurant
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Present: Elaine Pfeifer, Dr. Orlan Gessford, Tom Huffman, Blaine Peterson, Teresa Baldwin, Rebecca Miner and two participants

The Board explained our purpose and goal for the meeting.

A question was asked as to what the District can do to help students be more successful and stay in school. Students indicated that it is really all about the individual student and what is going on with that student. They said that classes were there to help them out. They decided to stay with it and get a diploma.

The board asked what slowed the students up as they pursued a diploma. The students indicated that skipping as well as lack of needed support made their progress early on difficult. They got behind during freshman and sophomore years and had to catch up.

When asked what helped or supported them, the students indicated that particular classes of interest (Small Engine Repair), advisory, encouragement from teachers and counselors, support from their parents, and additional academic support made a difference. One student indicated that advisory was “a mess around period.”

When asked to rate their high school experiences on a ten-point scale, students indicated an 8.

Students were asked what might have gotten them engaged sooner. They indicated that extracurricular activities were very important and that if they could have had more activities of high interest (i.e. boxing or martial arts) that would have kept more students engaged.

Students were asked why they wanted to get a diploma. They indicated that there were things they knew they would need a diploma for in the future and that kept them going. “The will to slack” interfered at times but they kept going. They realized how important it would be at 17 or 18 years old and may have known the whole time but really understood the importance at that age.

Students indicated that senior project “is a great thing.” Both saw applications for their project in the future. They suggested that perhaps students should not have to do the interview practice senior year if they already had a job and had gone through an interview process to get that job.

When asked if school was too easy, just right or too hard and if the bar should have been raised for them, students indicated that it was challenging enough and that if students needed more challenge there were opportunities for them to do so at the high school.

When asked about consumer skills such as budgeting and managing a checkbook, the students indicated that they learned these things at home though they thought there were some classes at the school that give this information.

Students said that there were several things that might help more students get to a diploma. They included more tutoring and/or more information about what is available and more extracurricular activities. However, they admitted that “hanging out with friends” is always going to compete with after school tutoring.

When asked what they would do differently if they could go back to 6th or 7th grade, students said they wished they had given it the best effort they could and earned As and Bs. They said that time goes by so fast – you should put the most effort forward that you can.

The Board thanked participants and wished them success in their futures.

Dated this 27th day of January 2009

President

Secretary to the Board