

1 **Stevensville Public Schools**
2 **School District #2**
3 **300 Park Street**
4 **Stevensville, Montana 59870**
5 **Telephone: (406)777-5481**
6 **Fax: (406)777-5291**

7 **Regular Board Meeting**

8 **February 10, 2015** **7:00 p.m.** **Music Center Choir Room**

9 **1. Opening of meeting – call to order – present – salute to flag:**

10 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook called the board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the
11 Music Center Choir Room. Cathi Cook led in the pledge of allegiance. Trustees present were
12 Dawn Shinn, Greg Trangmoe, Tim Schreiber, Penny Bertram and Chris Berthoud. Roger Bardsley
13 and Kevin Beller were not present. Superintendent David Whitesell, Brian Gum, Jacklyn
14 Mavencamp, Tracey Rogstad, Nate Fry and Business Manager/Clerk Bill Schiele were present.

15 **2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings (Special: 01/07/15; 01/22/15; Regular: 01/13/15)**

16 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the trustees if they had any questions or comments
17 on the regular board meeting on January 13, 2015, as presented. After comments about changing
18 the wording on page 2, line 4 from committee to community, page 4, line 2 to read “Audience
19 member” and page 8, line 5 to read “Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook” the minutes were passed
20 by unanimous consent with the changes.

21 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the trustees if they had any questions or comments
22 on the regular board meeting on January 7, 2015, as presented. After a comment about changing
23 the wording on page1, line 27 from “band” to “ban”, the minutes were passed by unanimous
24 consent with the changes.

25 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the trustees if they had any questions or comments
26 on the regular board meeting on January 22, 2015, as presented. The minutes were passed by
27 unanimous consent.
28

1 **3. Approval of Claims:**

2 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked if there were any questions or comments on the
3 claims or students' accounts. Cathi told the Board the district has claims in the amount of
4 \$131,707.32 starting with claim #29594 and ending with claim #29712 and students' account in
5 the amount of \$29,573.95. After comments about some of the claims, Greg Trangmoe made a
6 motion to approve the claims and students' accounts as presented. Tim Schreiber seconded the
7 motion. All voted aye.

8

9 **4. Recognize Visitors/Public Comment:**

10 **Public Comment:**

11 High School teacher Ted Adams updated the Board on the district wrestling program and
12 thanked the Board for the opportunity to have a wrestling program here at the district.

13 John Munk, the district Drivers Education program director talked about the district
14 Drivers Education program and the skid monster. John told the Board there is only 3 skid monster
15 programs in the state and Stevensville is one of the districts.

16 **Board Comment:**

17 Trustee Tim Schreiber told the Board and the audience he has done a lot of contemplating
18 about the issues that have come before the board the last few meetings. Tim told the Board he
19 would like to talk about the positive things that are happening here at the district. Tim read a letter
20 that talked about the positive things that are happening here at the district. (Attachment A)

21 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board she would like to address a comment that
22 was made at the last board meeting in regards to the school board members sitting at this table that
23 was elected by the people of Stevensville. Cathi read the letter to the Board and the audience.
24 (Attachment B).

25

26 **5. School Improvement Team Report - Sager:**

27 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook turned the floor over to Stacey Sager. Stacey updated
28 the board on the school mission statement and the ideas the staff came up with for the mission

1 statement. Stacey talked about where the district was at before and where they would like to be in
2 5 years. Stacey also told the Board they are working on student achievement data here at the
3 district.

4

5 **6. Advisory Presentation – Student Body Presentation:**

6 Superintendent David Whitesell told the Board that two students (Megan Finley and
7 Joseph Fecteau) approached him about doing a survey on the districts advisory class to see how
8 effective it is to the students and the district. David told the students they need to talk to High
9 School principal, Brian Gum about doing the survey. Megan and Joseph explained to the Board
10 why they decided to do a survey on the advisory class. Megan told the Board they had two
11 surveys, one for the students and one for the staff. Megan and Joseph did a presentation on the
12 results from the survey (Attachment C). Megan and Joseph also came up with some solutions on
13 how to reform the districts advisory class. Cathi thanked Megan and Joseph for the presentation.

14

15 **7. School Resource officer Report:**

16 Officer Sam Fawcett talked about the SRO program at the district and the things he does
17 at the district. Sam told the Board the program is working very well at the school and he is excited
18 about all the things they are accomplishing at the district. Sam also told the Board there has been
19 about 40 incidents here at the district so far this year and Sam talked about some of those incidents.
20 After comments from the Board about who does the SRO evaluation, if the program is fulfilling
21 the district needs and if there is special training for the SRO, Cathi thanked Sam for the great job
22 he does for the district.

23

24 **8. Transportation Report – Paul Ludington:**

25 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook turned the floor over to Paul Ludington. Paul handed
26 out several handouts to the Board. These handouts included the condition of the school district bus
27 fleet, a 6 year bus purchasing plan and the pro and cons of not renewing the current transportation
28 agreement with Harlow’s bus service. Paul talked about each handout and the pro and cons of not

1 renewing the bus agreement with Harlow's. Paul also talked about the problems they are having
2 with the buses breaking down and why they are breaking down more often now.

3 **9. Business: Items for Action**

4 **A. Discuss/Decision 7-12 Eligibility Requirements – Extra and Co-Curricular**
5 **Activities:**

6 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board this policy did not go through the policy
7 committee. Cathi asked the Board if they have any questions on the policy. After comments
8 from the Board on the policy, if they could not use the letter "F", if the Board needs two readings
9 for this policy and if a lawyer has looked at this policy, Greg Trangmoe made a motion to
10 approve the first reading of this policy as presented. Chris Berthoud seconded the motion. All
11 voted aye.

12 **B. Discuss/Decision Spring Sports Coaching Assignments**

13 **i. Track Resignation – C. Johnson**

14 **ii. Track Resignation – K. Boyd**

15 **iii. Girls Basketball Hire – H. Anderson**

16 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board the district received a resignation letter
17 from Cory Johnson as a Junior High track coach. Dawn Shinn made a motion to approve the
18 resignation letter from Cory Johnson as presented. Tim Schreiber seconded the motion. Dawn
19 Shinn, Tim Schreiber, Cathi Cook, Chris Berthoud and Greg Trangmoe voted aye. Penny
20 Bertram could not vote.

21 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board the district received a resignation letter
22 from Kelci Boyd as a Junior High track coach. Greg Trangmoe made a motion to approve the
23 resignation letter from Kelci Boyd as presented. Chris Berthoud seconded the motion. Dawn
24 Shinn, Tim Schreiber, Cathi Cook, Chris Berthoud and Greg Trangmoe voted aye. Penny
25 Bertram could not vote.

26 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook asked the Board if they have any questions on the hiring
27 of Hannah Anderson as a Junior High School girls basketball coach for the 2014-2015 school
28 year. Tim Schreiber made a motion to hire Hannah Anderson as presented. Greg Trangmoe

1 seconded the motion. Dawn Shinn, Tim Schreiber, Cathi Cook, Chris Berthoud and Greg
2 Trangmoe voted aye. Penny Bertram could not vote.

3 **C. Discuss/Decision Recommendation to accept Asst. Clerk's Resignation – Carolyn**
4 **Cook**

5 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board the district received a resignation letter
6 from Carolyn Cook as an assistant clerk for the district. Cathi told the Board that Carolyn has
7 worked for the district for the last 32 years as a paraprofessional, secretary and as an assistant
8 clerk. Greg Trangmoe made a motion to approve the resignation letter from Carolyn Cook as
9 presented. Dawn Shinn seconded the motion. All voted aye.

10 **D. Discuss/Decision to Clarify Para/Secretary Position – Sue Little**

11 The superintendent told the Board on the November board agenda Sue Little was hired as
12 a para/secretary but the position was advertised for only a paraprofessional position. David told
13 the Board they need to make a motion to clarify the position as a paraprofessional position only.
14 Greg Trangmoe made a motion to clarify the hiring of Sue Little as a paraprofessional as
15 presented. Dawn Shinn seconded the emotion. All voted aye.

16 **E. Discuss/Decision Recommendation for Substitute Positions – See Attachment**

17 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board the highlighted names (Attachment D)
18 are the ones that need to be approved this month. Cathi told the Board she will start with sub Josh
19 Lords. Cathi asked the Board if they have any questions on the hiring of Josh Lords as a teacher
20 sub. Tim Schreiber made a motion to hire Josh Lords as a teachers sub as presented. Chris
21 Berthoud seconded the motion. All voted aye.

22 Cathi asked the Board if they have any questions on the hiring of Don Murphy as a teacher
23 sub. Greg Trangmoe made a motion to hire Don Murphy as a teachers sub as presented. Tim
24 Schreiber seconded the motion. All voted aye.

25 Cathi asked the Board if they have any questions on the hiring of Melissa Weiss, Allan
26 Gates, Jennifer Gaston Smith, Jenna Henning, Lori Mitzalis and Kim Nittler as teacher subs
27 pending background checks. Tim Schreiber made a motion to hire Melissa Weiss, Allan Gates,
28 Jennifer Gaston Smith, Jenna Henning, Lori Mitzalis and Kim Nittler as teachers sub as presented

1 pending successful background checks. Chris Berthoud seconded the motion. All voted aye.

2 **F. Discuss/Decision Elementary Out of District Enrollment Requests – Mavencamp**
3 **and Rogstad**

4 There was no Elementary out of district request this month.

5 **G. Discuss/Decision High School Out of District Enrollment Requests - Gum**

6 There was no High School out of district request this month.

7 **H. Discuss/Decision K-12 Math; CTE/Workshop Competencies Curricular – J.**
8 **Mavencamp**

9 Jacklyn Mavencamp, the district curriculum director, asked the Board if they have any
10 question on these curriculums. After comments from the Board on the curriculum and if the
11 Board is approving the curriculum or if they are also approving the books at this time, Jacklyn
12 told the Board they are just approving the curriculum at this time. Dawn Shinn made a motion to
13 approve the K-12 Math, CTE/Workshop Competencies Curriculum as presented. Tim Schreiber
14 seconded the motion. All voted aye.

15 **I. Discuss/Decision Out-of State Travel – All Northwest Conference Music Festival**
16 **(Spokane, WA.) – K. Morton**

17 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook turned the floor over to Kyla Morton. Kyla Morton told
18 the Board the district has 1 band student and 2 choir students that have an opportunity to
19 participate in the Northwestern Music Festival this year in Spokane. After a comment about how
20 the students will be traveling to Spokane, Penny Bertram made a motion to approve the out-of
21 state travel as presented. Chris Berthoud seconded the motion. All voted aye.

22 **J. Discuss/Decision Early Graduation Petition – BP#2410P, 2410 and 2168 – B. Gum**

23 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook told the Board this agenda item was not correct. Cathi
24 told the Board this will be tabled until the next Board meeting. The Board tabled this agenda item
25 by unanimous consent.

26 **K. Discuss/Decision Inter-local Agreement with Montana Youth Challenge**
27 **(MCA 20-9-707) - B. Gum**

28 Brian Gum told the Board the district has two students that attend the Montana Youth

1 Challenge program and for the district to claim the students on the ANB count the school needs to
2 have an inter-local agreement with them. Dawn Shinn made a motion to approve the inter-local
3 agreement with the Montana Youth Challenge as presented. Greg Trangmoe seconded the
4 motion. All voted aye.

5 **L. Discuss/Decision to Call for Trustee Election – B. Schiele**

6 Superintendent David Whitesell told the Board they need to approve a resolution for the
7 upcoming school trustee election. Dawn Shinn made a motion to approve the resolution for the
8 upcoming school trustee election as presented. Tim Schreiber seconded the motion. All voted
9 aye.

10 **9. Items for Information:**

11 **A. Student Council Representative’s Report**

12 Madam Chairwoman Cathi Cook turned the floor over to Trevor Motley. Trevor talked
13 about the things that are happening at the district for the month of February (Attachment D).

14 **B. Clerk’s Report**

15 **i. Enrollment Data**

16 **ii. Audit Report**

17 Business Manager Bill Schiele updated the Board on the general fund status. Bill went
18 over the ANB numbers that were collected on February 2, 2015. Bill also told the Board the
19 district audit has been completed and the district should be receiving the report in the next few
20 weeks.

21 **C. Principals’ Report**

22 **i. Primary School – Jackie Mavencamp**

23 Jackie told the Board things are good at the K-3 building. Jackie told the Board the district will
24 be having their Valentine Parties this Friday. Jaclyn updated the Board on MAP testing at the
25 district and told the Board MAP testing will be wrapping up at the end of the month.

26 **ii. Middle School – Tracey Rogstad**

27 Tracey talked about all the things that are happening at the Middle school this month.
28 Tracey told the Board MAP testing will start at the end of this month. Cathi thanked Tracey for

1 putting the school calendar out.

2 **iii. High School – Brian Gum**

3 **1. Athletic Report – Nate Fry**

4 **a. MHSAs Proposals Update**

5 Brian talked about the Parent Night meeting that will be held on February 19, 2015. The
6 Board asked if the district will be advertising the meeting in the paper. David told the Board they
7 will advertise the meeting. Brian talked about the Graduation Matters program and the assembly
8 that the district will be having for the students. Brian also told the Board he appreciates having
9 the new SRO officer at the district.

10 Nate updated the Board on the MHSAs conference in Kalispell and how they voted on the
11 issues that were up for vote this year

12 **C. Superintendent's Reports**

13 **i. Legislative Report**

14 **ii. FP-14 Out-of District Agreement**

15 **iii. Committee Calendars**

16 Superintendent David Whitesell told the Board he has testified on SB 15(Quality School
17 Grant) and on SB 213 (Extension of SB 348). David told the Board there is some confusion on
18 MCA 20-5-324 and MCA 20-5-322 state laws and the requirements for reporting out of district
19 students. David talked about the two laws and how they affect the reporting requirements. David
20 told the board the district needs to set dates for the districts committees to meet. The Board set
21 dates for the committees to meet.

22

23 **9. Adjourn:**

24 Dawn Shinn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim Schreiber seconded the motion.
25 All voted aye.

26 Board Chairman: Cathy Cook

27 Date: 3-10-15

28 School Board Clerk: William F. Reiche

I've done a lot of contemplating since the last few board meetings, and as I see it, there has been a great deal of focus put on the issues that were brought before us. Now I realize that there are going to be issues that need to be addressed. There are in every organization. We have these administrators and this board in place to deal with those concerns that will inevitably arise, and I assure you, we are committed to dealing with all of them as they come.

What saddens me, however, is that the other side of this coin is being overshadowed. I don't feel the "wins" or "positives" that are being produced each and every day are being given a voice, and so I want to take a moment to try to do it some justice and become that voice, if only for a few minutes. Please bare with me as I share with you what I see when I come here to our school.

First, I see teachers each and every day, giving of their own personal time, energy and even pocketbook to teach our children to the best of their ability. I see them striving to reach each and every one of our kids, whether they are reaching down to raise the achievement level of a struggling learner, or driving an accelerated student to rise up to their highest potential. I know my boys have both become passionate about math this year, thanks to their teachers drive to push them to their absolute limits, and then raise that bar even higher. My oldest son has developed a new drive about his physical fitness, and has been inspired to continue working out in his own time even *after* finishing his weight lifting class this fall. Both of my boys have a powerful passion for music, thanks to the education they have received here, and it's a passion that continues to grow. I have watched them both develop a deep and lasting respect for education, which started in their primary building, and hasn't let up as they have entered Middle School. These teachers work endlessly to maintain that level of expectation and encouragement, they personally fund numerous projects, and they work more hours than we see.

Second, I see our schools striving to reach new levels of success. I have had parents of recent graduates share with me that their young college students are better prepared and out performing peers at the University level because of the education received at our school. Look at our graduation rates actively increasing as our dropout rates are decreasing. We have a School Improvement Team in place that is working internally, to better the way the schools are striving to reach their goals. I had the pleasure to be present, when our elementary school was awarded the Platinum award at the Montana Behavior Initiative conference this summer, the only one ever awarded in the State of Montana. Our 4-8 principal has created a leadership team that is currently creating our new Middle School model to better reach this age bracket, and they are putting so much time and energy in that the plan is to have this model ready to implement for our next school year. As was shared in last month's board meeting, our new technology driven curriculum is inspiring kids and exciting teachers in their learning environments. Big changes are in place, and the effort and focus is always on what is best for our kids.

Third, I see teams performing powerfully. I see a new, young basketball team that has struggled through adversity and is now starting to gel and come together as a productive team. I see the Drama team taking 2nd at their state competition, with numerous individual 1st, 2nd and 3rd places as well. I see a new wrestling program that has not only begun to compete, but is hosting it's own home tournaments for the first time in nearly 30 years. I see a team of our FFA kids and Speech kids qualifying and competing at the national level last year. And these are only a few accomplishments as there are many more that could be mentioned.

Imagine what we could do together if we started to look at what's working, and spread that with a loud and passionate voice. Our kids, teachers and administrators need and deserve our support. Please try to take just a moment and view things from my vantage point. It's valid, it's organic, and it's happening in real time, right here, right now.

A comment was made at a meeting last month in regards to the school board members sitting at this table being elected by the people of Stevensville.

I wanted to make a statement and clarification to that point.

The eight trustees that are members of this board now were not elected, per se.

They were the only eight people that signed their petitions and volunteered for their positions.

They were either elected by acclamation, which means that there weren't any other candidates opposing the position, or they were appointed by the board itself. This procedure happens after there aren't any candidates to hold an election and the election timeline has passed. The board then interviews applicants and appoints a trustee.

This district has not held an election for school board trustees since 2010. At that election there was only a 13% turnout of voters!

Again, these people volunteer their time and energy to this district, its students, and the community.

They sometimes miss work or family events to attend board meetings and committee meetings. They stay up late at night reading their board packets and reviewing curriculum binders.

Sometimes they have to make tough decisions. We are not professional educators, but we are doing the best we can with the information that is presented to us within the boundaries that govern us.

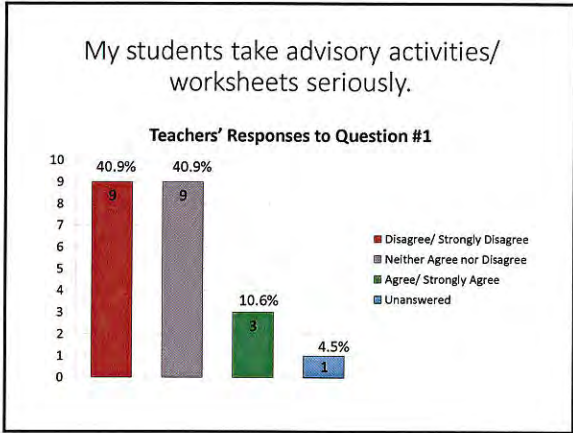
There are 5 trustee positions that are completing their term this spring. If someone wants to volunteer to help guide this district so we can provide the best education for the students and remain fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Stevensville, then please, get your name on the ballot.

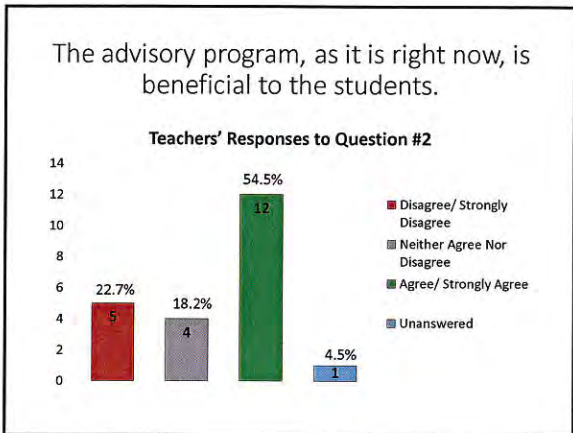
Cathi Cook

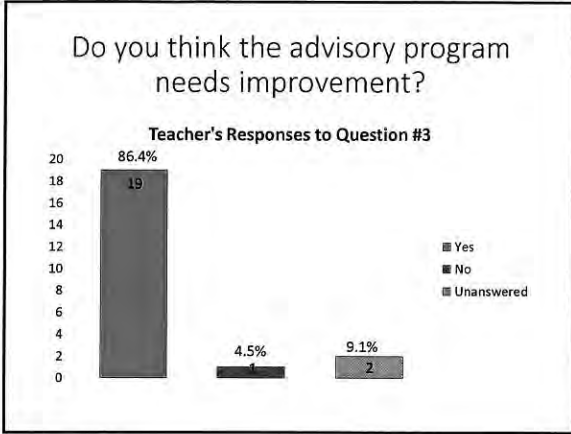


Advisory Reform

Joseph Fecteau and Megan Finley







Common Themes to Question 3: Do you think the advisory program needs improvement? If answered yes, how so? If answered no, why not?

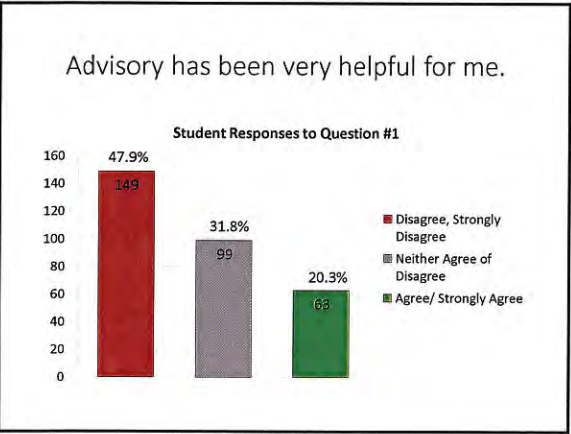
- The kids don't take it seriously
- No sense of purpose to the students
- More age level appropriate worksheets
- Focus more on academics, preparing kids for after high school

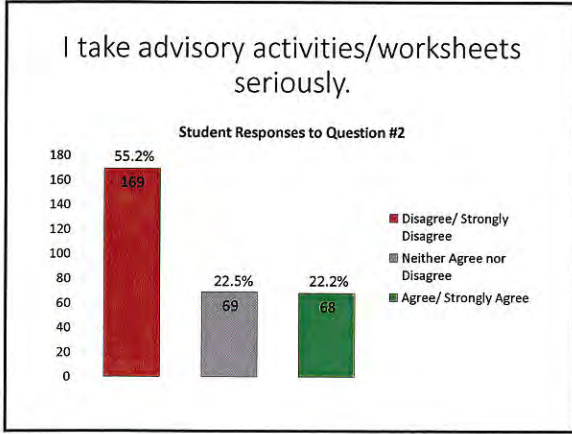
Common Themes to Question 4: If advisory were to be reformed, what aspects would you like to see kept?

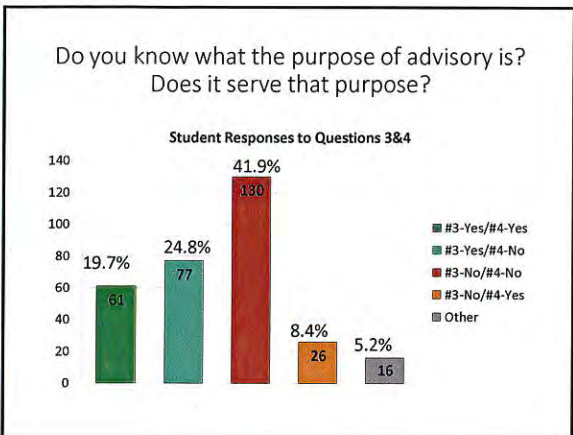
- Projects
- Portfolios, Best Works, and Grade Checks
- Student Led Conferences
- Senior Projects
- SSR and Study Hall
- Community Building
- Competitions
- Assemblies
- Test Prep
- Staying with the same kids for 4 years

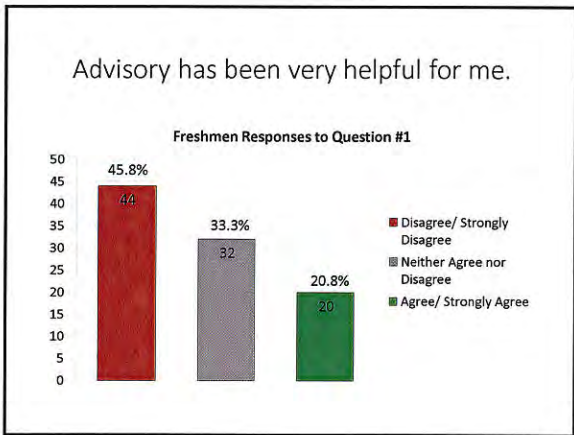
Common Themes to Question 5: What improvements would you like to see in the advisory program?

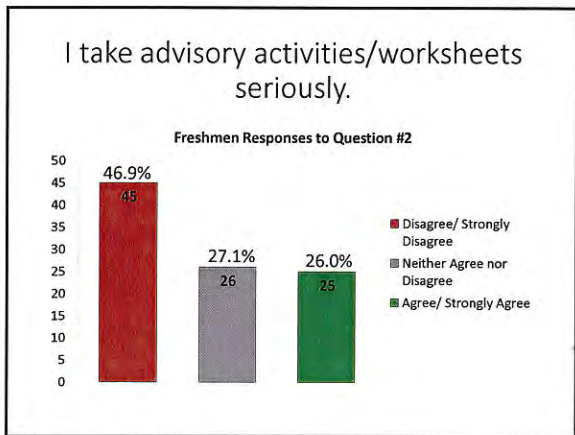
- Longer time
- Preparing for life and careers
- Getting all of the teachers on board with the program
- Preparing the teachers through training
- Provide organizational skills
- Learning how to create healthy relationships
- More involvement with parents
- Focus on goal development
- Increase academic focus
- Increase leadership activities
- Increase in age appropriate material









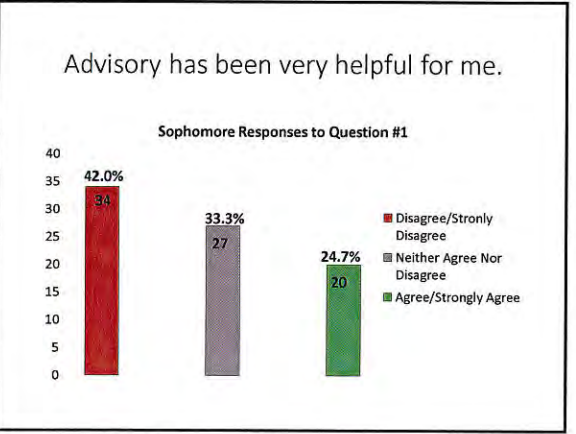


Common Themes to Question 5: If advisory were to be reformed, what aspects would you like to see kept?

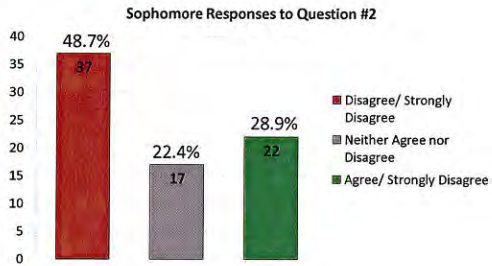
- Time to do homework
- Clubs
- SSR
- Grade checks
- Binders
- Preparing for the future
- Time to socialize and regroup

Common Themes to Question 6: What do you think advisory should be focused on in your current grade level?

- Focus on preparing for the future
- Time to do homework
- Focus on getting better grades
- Activities



I take advisory activities/worksheets seriously.



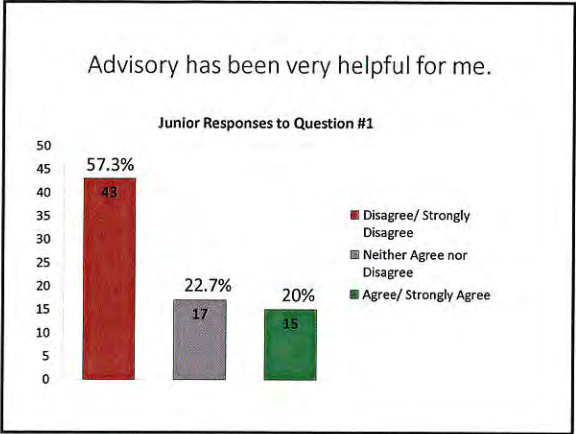
Common Themes to Question 5: If advisory were to be reformed, what aspects would you like to see kept?

- Time to do homework
- SSR
- Clubs
- Free time
- Grade checks
- Binders

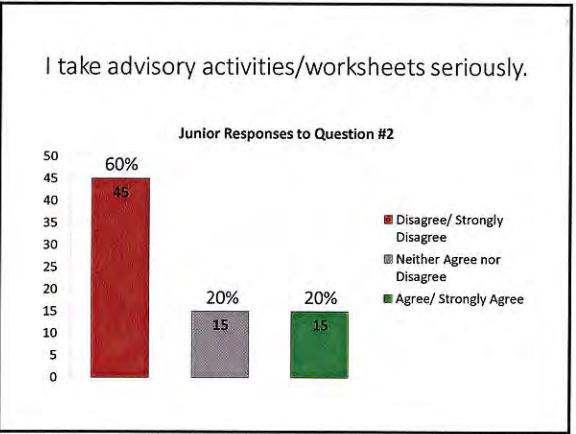
Common Themes to Question 6: What do you think advisory should be focused on in your current grade level?

- Time to do homework
- Focus on career choices
- Picking classes for the upcoming years of high school
- Time to relax
- Get help
- Building a community and relationships

Advisory has been very helpful for me.



I take advisory activities/worksheets seriously.



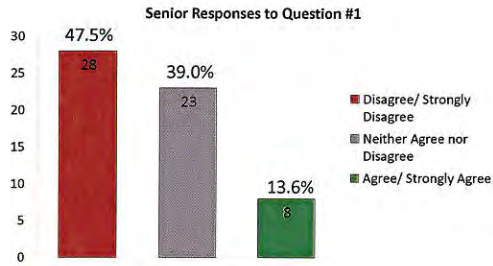
Common Themes to Question 5: If advisory were to be reformed, what aspects would you like to see kept?

- Study hall
- SSR
- ACT prep
- Credit/Grade checks
- Clubs
- Preparing for college
- Community service
- Preparing for the future
- Goal setting

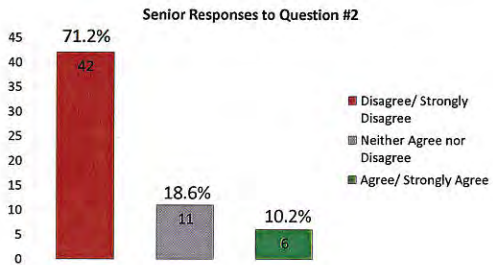
Common Themes to Question 6: What do you think advisory should be focused on in your current grade level?

- Preparing for college
- ACT and SAT prep
- Search for scholarships
- Preparing for graduation
- Post-secondary preparation
- Career exploration
- Study hall
- Start working on senior projects

Advisory has been very helpful for me.



I take advisory activities/worksheets seriously.



Common Themes to Question 5: If advisory were to be reformed, what aspects would you like to see kept?

- Senior projects
- Clubs
- SSR
- Time to do homework
- Applying for scholarships
- Community service

Common Themes to Question 6: What do you think advisory should be focused on in your current grade level?

- Applying to college
- Applying for scholarships
- Post-secondary preparation
- Working on senior projects
- Study hall

Solutions

- Increase the amount of time for advisory
- Utilize the time currently allotted
- Consider the possibility without the program

Attachment D

Nancy Dugan	Y	12/16/2014
Cortney Liston	Y	12/17/2014
Debra Kane	y	1/8/2015
Josh Lords	y	wants to sub was hired as coach
Melissa Weiss		1/13/2015
Allan Gates		1/13/2015
Jennifer Gaston Smith		1/13/2015
Don Murphy		substitute-was hired as a coach
Jenna Henning		01-27-15 pending background check
Lori Mitzalis		has background certified English teacher
Kim Nittler		Kitchen help pending background