

School-Wide Discipline / Positive School Climate Committee Minutes
Feb. 11, 2004

The only major agenda item for this committee meeting was open vs. closed campus. However, not much interest on this topic item was evident when we started the meeting. The committee felt that the positive benefits to students relative to their access to all teachers which a single lunch would provide, outweighed any benefit/s associated with a closed campus (a closed campus would require multiple lunches). Another reason cited for keeping the campus open was the need to hire additional security and/or administrators as well as to enlist the aid of teachers during their lunch period to help enforce a closed campus.

The discussion moved to a concern that South Anchorage may encounter more drug and alcohol use among its students than some schools in town and that it would be on par with Dimond HS and Service HS. Proactive and preventative steps would be initiated by the SAHS Administration and Security to help address this potential problem. Gail White, the school nurse, understood from the discussion that she may be called upon to assist with Drug/Alcohol assessments on a regular basis once the school is open.

The topics of student cheating and plagiarism were discussed. Mr. Fannin indicated that it was his experience that most teachers gave students a zero (0) for any work that they were caught cheating on and parents were called as well. In some cases, additional sanctions were given. Those sanctions included detentions, work details, In-School Suspension, Suspension until Parent Conference etc. It was agreed that this was an area that needed to be addressed early and regularly with all our students. It was further noted that if cheating occurs at the university level, the sanctions can be much more serious. Students certainly need to be aware that they could be expelled from a university for cheating or for plagiarizing someone else's work.

The committee expressed the view that a major, ongoing student recognition program should be implemented as the school opens. Not just Honor Roll students, but those who dramatically improved their grades and who went above and beyond what would normally be considered good citizenship to help others or to improve the school should be recognized. An early effort to work with local merchants to secure gift certificates and other items that students would value would be undertaken to help realize this goal. It was also noted that our classified staff may be in the best position to notice many of these acts of kindness and should be a big part of this program.

Finally, it was asserted that video announcements would really spark an interest in students, particularly if part of the focus was on cool things that occurred outside of school and in the "Activities realm." If those could be implemented, it would be very positive for our students. One of the committee members encouraged the SAHS Staff to ensure that our students were aware of the Vocational /Technical School at Seward and what it had to offer.