

Clarence Bee Article – May 2018
Geoffrey Hicks, Clarence Superintendent of Schools

Student Advisory Group

Over the past seven years, I've been meeting with a select group of high school senior students who were chosen to be part of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Group. The students represent an eclectic cross section of the senior class. We meet once per month to engage in a spirited conversation about high school and district issues. The students are never shy about voicing their opinions and the dialogue is always rich and insightful. Although there are agendas for the meetings, it usually turns into a free flow of ideas and suggestions, with the best feedback coming from issues that arise randomly in the conversation.

I've discovered that offering a venue for students to discuss school issues provides me with a perspective that I can't get anywhere else. The topics we discuss in the group are diverse and have included senior coursework, school safety, budget, technology, student privileges, school spirit, athletics, extracurricular opportunities, college readiness, scheduling, code of conduct, senior events, and many others.

It is not unusual for students to voice alternative viewpoints and provide novel solutions to problems that wouldn't normally be considered. There have been multiple times over the past seven years where feedback from the advisory group had significant influence on decisions regarding school procedures or student issues.

I've been fortunate to work with truly exceptional students on the advisory group. Their experience has allowed me to establish a connection with the group members and for them to have a voice on matters that impact their educational lives. I look forward to the advisory group meetings each month, and I am constantly surprised and impressed with the perspicacity of our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for supporting the 2018-19 school budget. Both the budget and the proposition to purchase buses passed by margins greater than sixty-seven percent, The District never takes the support of our community for granted. We know we must continue to earn that support by offering the highest quality educational and extracurricular programs for students.