

Bennion Junior High Community Council Agenda

DATE: October, 2020.

1. Welcome:

Attendance: Whitney Afoa, Principal Stevens, Brandalyn Seaman, Ashley Gray, Stephanie Harding

Visitors: Nicole McDermott

Not in Attendance:

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Emailed prior)

Motion to approve: Seconded: Ms. Afoa

All in favor:

3. Counselor update:

4. Principal Report / School and TrustLands

Update / Business:

- 1. Amendment: Move all money budgeted for personnel (hourly teacher tutoring, paras, substitutes, teacher FTE) to teacher FTE. This will total about \$60,000 to cover salary and benefits. This supports our goal for reaching ESL students more effectively with lower English class sizes. Rehire paras, math tutoring, credit recovery using TSSA money.**
motion to approve by Brandalyn Seaman
seconded by Whitney Afoa

1. Distance learning/Covid updates or info

The switch for distance learners to in person and vice versa were pretty much the same. 1/3 in and 1/3 out.

Q: How are distance learners doing as far as grades? Some are good and some not so good. All grades are generally lower in the 1st term this year. Chrome books are a distraction. Some kids struggle now that didn't in past years. Kids hide behind the masks and don't engage. Not as much engagement by teachers because they have to handle distance learners and in person students.

Q: Teachers- how do you engage classes? Lots of white board work. Can't have the kids moving around the room so you have to adjust activities. It's hard to do some things because of contract tracing.

Nurses are working 24/7 to keep track.

Are we good meeting in person?

Brandalyn - is there a way to check in on the distance learners? Are they all struggling or are they just tuning out? How do we talk to the distance learning parents?

Question about PBG - what is the impact if there are less things being graded? Ms Afoa says its a negative impact especially on distance learners who would not make up an assessment. If there are only 4 assessments and you fail one, it will drag down your grade. Mrs. Phillips says it's a learning curve for the 7th graders who are still figuring out that its their responsibility. Distance learning highlights those who are not doing it.

There is a problem with 0s in the grade book. Is it because the student didn't do it or is it because it isn't graded and the 0 is automatic. Some classes (like typing) only have one standard to grade.

There is a broad range of standards depending on the class.

5. New business: training videos

6. Follow up business:

Block schedule?

Block schedule- Faculty voted 38/7 for a 7 period day. The concerns were for the number of classes for 7th graders. Eisenhower is thinking about moving back to a 7 period day. Teachers really wanted the reading program to continue especially for the 6th graders coming in next year. They found a way for 6th graders to have some electives and fit in everything they needed. 6th grade success class will be combined with the advisory period so it will leave open up 1 class for the kids. The school can still

How long is an advisory period? Generally no longer than 30 minutes. It would be 7 periods plus advisory and would be worked into every kids schedule.

We will have to decide if a teacher will keep an advisory group every year or switch groups every year.

7. Other Items / Questions for the Community or Council Members:Transition questions?

What other councils are doing to ease transition.

How will we transition? Do we know what other schools are doing? We still aren't sure what we can and can't do but it will be in the beginning of the school year. It could be going back to a back to school night? Sometimes parents build up the transition from elementary to jr high more in their mind and it all works out when they start school.

8. Assignments / Issues to discuss at next meeting:

Motion to adjourn: Mrs. Phillips Seconded: Angela

All in favor: unanimous

Next meeting: December 9, 2020