

In attendance:

Tracey Arlen, Julie Goldman, Michelle Luker, Stephanie Benware, Leah Smith, Chris Julian, Robyn Ivins, Dave Gudgell, Terri Roylance, Cathay McDonald, Adam Wilkins, Teresa Olsen

Principal's Report

Cottonwood High School parent engagement night report - Assist parents to sign up for parent portal. Discussed progress toward graduation requirements. Mental health resources and provided dinner. 4 families attended

Upcoming parent nights are:

Jan 24th, Feb, 28th, March 28th, April 25th, May 23rd at Olene Walker Parent Engagement Center 3751 S 900 W 6:00-7:00 PM

There will be a parent night for the entire Cottonwood network Thursday, February 3rd, with the same assistance offered at the above meeting but will also include student performances. A planning meeting is happening next week and more details will be given at the January meeting.

The Course catalog will be digital only this year. It will be available January 3rd. Teachers are making very short videos (30 seconds or less) to spotlight their classes and explain differences between things like AP Lit and AP Lang etc.

Course selection will also be done digitally this year. It will happen at the middle to end of January. Students will be given a printed copy to practice with, but the actual selection will be online.

Parent teacher conferences will be held February 7th in person and February 8th virtually by appointment.

We discussed a possible assembly about digital safety called Rachel's Challenge. Skyline is bringing it in. Terri and some CC members will attend and see if it would be something to bring to Cottonwood. Terri feels like many students just don't understand how serious their actions online can be. A video and email were sent to parents by Superintendent Nye regarding cyberbullying. Many things are happening around the state and in our district and school that are not appropriate.

CHS bullying policy: Call student in to see administrator and call parents to come in as well. A "No Contact" contract is put in place. Student will have no contact in person or online with the other student. If that contract is broken, a safe school referral is made, Student will no longer be allowed at Cottonwood.

The Annie play has wrapped up and it was spectacular. Adam does such a good job with the students. 10% of our student body participates in the fall musical which is the largest single event the school does. It is very inclusive. The next theatre production will be a Broadway Review - which will be a Cinderella story to the music of Queen, and melodramas - which Adam says, if you are a bad actor then you are exactly what we want!. They are all student directed. It is so fun to see what the kids come up with.

PBL was discussed. Robyn wants to send a letter from our CC to the district. It just isn't working. Kids only do assignments if they know it will be counted on their grade, i.e. an assessment. They are learning to procrastinate because they know there aren't due dates, things are due at the end of the term. Not all teachers are giving opportunities for retakes of assessments and they mostly hate PBL.

Robyn interviewed college students from BYU, UVU and Utah State and none of them have professors who use PBL. All of them have graded homework and all of them have extra credit offered by professors at the college level. PBL just isn't doing what it was designed to do.

Parents are upset, kids are suffering and not being prepared for college and teachers feel like the district isn't listening to their complaints. Robyn's friend recently completed a master's degree from Western Governors University. They use a straight pass/fail system which is the only thing comparable to PBL at the university level she could find. There are no grades given at WGU, you either pass a class and move on to the next one, or you fail and retake it.

It was suggested that Robyn attend the district CC meeting in January and ask to be put on the agenda to discuss PBL there. The feeling is that Superintendent Nye is a good listener and now may be a good time for changes.

She will reach out to CC chairpeople at each high school to get a feel for how other networks feel about PBL.

Christmas Extravaganza will be Tuesday, December 14th. The donated items from the neighborhood 9-11 day of service will be transported to Cottonwood Saturday, December 11th. The items will be sorted on Monday the 13th and the Extravaganza will be Tuesday the 14th. Special Ed kids can come at 1:30, with the rest of the kids coming at 1:45. Robyn will send Terri an email for teachers.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30. Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 4th at 6:30 AM