



Kearns High School

School Community Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Mission Statement:

Kearns High School students are responsible for developing proficiency in the Utah State Core Standards. Through collaboration with staff and ongoing assessments, our students leave Kearns High School successfully prepared for college and career.

Parent Members Present: Mike Edwards, Deonna Weight, Susan Pate, Jeralyn Kjar, Danielle Mecham, Bertha Santiago

Staff Members Present: Maile Loo, Megan Angell, Misty Morrow, Ryan Knowlton, Aimee Duran

Visitors Present: Amanda Rosas

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 4:30.

We collected the names and email addresses of all SCC members and introduced ourselves.

Mike Edwards discussed the process of voting on and ratifying new members. All voting members are returning members so there was no need. We will carry on with existing rules of order, the discussion will move forward, we will call for motions if needed.

Ms. Loo took the floor to discuss updates with Aleks since the last meeting. She has observed our new teachers using Aleks in the classroom. The teachers are using the program as a self-starter. There is an immediate response regarding right or wrong answers. If it is correct, they are applauded; if it is incorrect they receive additional steps to guide them to the correct response without giving the answer. Ms. Loo walked around and asked the students about the program. They generally work for about fifteen minutes a class period in the program, they felt like it reinforced what they had learned and there was a positive response to it overall.

Megan Angell informed the committee that Aleks is being used in Secondary 1, 2, 3 and Modern Math. Juniors are using it for ACT practice as well. Megan is using it for about twenty minutes at the beginning of each class. Her classes have a good reception to the program and they are using it at home as well. She is assigning homework through the program to keep the kids using the same reinforcement structure. The program allows the kids to work at their own pace and it is a custom program for their needs. It begins with a pre-assessment, runs through 25 topics, and reassesses for progress. Megan, as an administrator in the program, can check each teacher's usage as well as the proficiency of each student. We are already seeing growth.

Mike Edwards wanted to make sure we will be able to see measurable data with the program. We will see it in pre/post benchmarks. Granger used it last year and saw measurable growth, Cottonwood High School has also adopted the program. There is Spanish language assistance available in the program. Misty Morrow pointed out that they would not have this same support in the SAGE and School City benchmarks.

Ms. Loo presented each committee member with the new District SCC Handbooks. The committee was directed to read through the handbook on their own time. Ms. Loo discussed the SAGE results and school grade results that were still embargoed at the last meeting. We received an F again this year. The discussion turned to the number of opt-outs (300+) from last year. The process has already started this year. The rules did change and all opt-outs must be completed before the testing window opens in March.

Mike Edwards questioned if parents know about this change.

Ms. Loo is going to send a letter home in January informing them of the change.

Danielle Mecham addressed the possibility of asking students not to opt-out and letting parents know how important it is for their students to test; Mike Edwards wondered if some of the opt-outs hurt our scores.

Ms. Loo is going to ask Rob Averett draft a politically correct letter for all secondary principals to send home that will be unbiased, but informative. KHS saw an increase in math and science, but a drop in English. Rob Averett informed Ms. Loo that the minority of opt-outs affected our scores. It is the parents choice and we cannot solicit the kids to take the test. With the F grade comes concern for turnaround status. Only the bottom 3% of failing high schools will become turnaround schools. Ms. Loo has met with Rob Averett and the Superintendent regarding data and believes that we will not be in that group. There was an increase in failing high schools, which was unusual. The state is looking at different assessments and we don't know where the school grading system will be next year. Misty Morrow questioned whether we have seen any positive changes from the grading system and Deonna Weight feels like it is setup to make more school fail each year.

Mike Edwards directed the conversation toward the ACT Prep classes and testing. We have seen significant results and he would like to see the funds written into the Community Council plan to use the funds to pay for the tests. Ms. Loo informed the council that those students who participated in the class last year saw a 1-3% growth in scores. Last year the school offered and paid for the students in the ACT Prep classes to take the December ACT test. She has already offered the same thing to the new group of students in the newly formed ACT Prep courses. The motion was made by Mike Edwards to amend the spending plan to include the cost of these tests and possibly sustain it for years to come. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion and it was clarified that this change would pay the \$47 per student to take the ACT test. Mike Edwards believes this would be a good incentive for low income students, especially those

who don't want to burden their parents with the cost. There was a vote and a unanimous yes from the committee.

Mike Edwards questioned whether we need to look at or update anything else in the plan. It was determined that the amendment still applied to the goals of reading, math, and science. He also offered information about the new school bond and encouraged the committee to help the community not spread false information about the bond. If there are any questions he would be willing to help give the correct information. The first schools to be rebuilt are Cyprus, Skyline, and West Kearns elementary. Kearns has a solid foundation and won't be rebuilt for quite some time. We cannot advertise or support the bond on school grounds.

Deonna Weight was nominated by Susan Pate to become the new Council Chairperson, there was a unanimous yes vote. Deonna will create the agenda moving forward. We will discuss the requested spending at the next meeting. Mike Edwards reminded the committee that we cannot have carry over spending from year to year. Danielle Mecham questioned if the teachers can reinforce the importance of the SAGE testing. Ms. Loo assured the committee that she will discuss the letter with the faculty at the February faculty meeting. Deonna Weight proposed that the teachers remind the students that they should not feel pressured to finish quickly, it is not a contest or a race. The committee agreed that those who took their time saw higher scores. Mike Edwards expressed his discontent over SAGE as the test that evaluates teachers, not student learning.

The next meeting will be held on November 14th at 4:30 in room 245. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.