School Community Council Meeting Notes
Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Parent Members Present: Deonna Weight, Danielle Mecham, Susan Pate, Jeralyn Kjar
Staff Members Present: Maile Loo, Megan Angell, Ryan Knowlton, Cheri Jacobson
Visitors Present: Amanda Rosas

Meeting called to order at 4:33 by Deonna Weight

The roll was signed, agendas distributed, and everyone was welcomed.

Deonna called for an approval of last month’s minutes, which were included in the email with this month’s agenda. Ryan Knowlton motioned for the approval, Megan Angell seconded, all were in favor.

Deonna turned the time over to Ms. Loo. Ms. Loo was happy to see PBG on the agenda as she wanted to discuss some advancements in our PBG status during the last month. Ms. Loo met with our staff after a meeting with the Superintendent, Linda Mariotti, and John Wellburn at which a timeline was revealed for the PBG rollout. Elementary school are all on the program as of the 2018-2019 school year, junior highs will be on as of the 2019-2020 school year, and high schools will be on as of the 2020-2021 school year. Standards are created for all of the core subjects (English, math, science, and social studies), and they are currently working on elective standards. They are asking the principals to take an active role in the implementation and have been assured by Linda Mariotti that this has been a process eight years in the making and it is not going away. This has been used in other countries and transcripts have been adjusted by GSD to convert those 1-4 scores into grades to match our transcripts. Kearns High School has already had a few teachers piloting the program for several years.

Last Tuesday Ms. Loo announced to the KHS faculty that all core courses will be piloting the program next year. Our entire math department, over half of the English department, one social studies teacher, and two science teachers, and several fine arts are already on the program. Ms. Loo made this choice because she knows that during the 2020-2021 school year there will be a lot of departments looking for help with the program and she wants to stay ahead of the game and get her teachers the help beforehand. This year she has already awarded the math department 25 professional development days to help them move forward with the program and will be helping English out in the same way as Linda Mariotti will be meeting with the English department at the end of November to help get them moving forward. As far as she knows there are only two high schools planning on moving forward next year. Ms. Loo wanted to let the Council know and address any questions they may have at this point.

Danielle Mecham looked to clarify that all elementaries have moved to the program and expressed how much she liked the report card. It made her feel like she really know how her daughter was doing.

Megan Angell explained that the high schools will still be converting the 0-4 to a letter grade due to NCAA and college entrance. She also mentioned that this may need to be conveyed to parents again.
Danielle Mecham agreed as it will be different than the elementary program and wondered if Ms. Loo had to pay for the professional development days.

Ms. Loo explained that if she goes over her allotted sixty days she does have to pay for them. To avoid this she will devote them to math and English this year and science and social studies next year. The district has also assured her that there will be after school trainings with stipends for the teachers to help get them prepared.

Deonna Weight commented that they are still trying to get acclimated to the PBG system. Her daughter has higher anxiety with the system and feel somewhat like she is not in control of her grades, but she does have more control.

Ms. Loo commented that teachers do have the ability to work with students to personalize PBG. Just like the regular grading if you have a concern you can send it to the counselor who will send it to the teachers.

Ryan Knowlton added that the expectations for different grades is very clear due to the use of rubrics. Each student knows up front what they need to do to show the level of proficiency they are trying to achieve.

Danielle Mecham asked how colleges look at PBG.

Megan Angell indicated that colleges will only see a letter grade. Maile asked her to elaborate on how that works in Gradebook. Megan explained that the District has a formula that takes the 0-4 and converts it into a letter grade to go on the report card.

Danielle Mecham asked what was the point of changing.

Ms. Loo explained that PBG was designed to help the students do better with specific concepts and to help motivate them to do better. It puts the grades more in their own control and they know exactly what is expected of them. Homework is not required, but it is used as practice to help them master the concepts in order to move on.

Danielle Mecham commented that this style would help prepare them more for college and wondered if it is being used in other places.

Megan Angell replied that it is common back east and in parts of Idaho.

Ryan Knowlton added that he likes it because it forces the students to show understanding, not just fill out a worksheet. They have to provide evidence - it is not just busy work.

Danielle Mecham likes the idea of getting ahead of the official roll out.

Ms. Loo also feels like PBG increases communication, college and career readiness, and feedback for learning. It has encouraged students to be more aggressive in their learning and made them want to do better to earn their grades.

Ryan Knowlton feels like the standards are harder to master because the students have to show full understanding.

Megan Angell feels like it helps the students on the lower end as well because they know they understand a concept.
Amanda Rosas questioned how many teachers were using it this year. Ms. Loo explained that we have 28 teachers, including three who have been doing it for three years, this includes the entire math department.

Ms. Loo explained that jumping in early will help our school grades as the results of the ACT and ACT Aspire, which have concepts from the core classes, are heavily weighed in the grade. She explained, again, that moving forward now will not force us to split district supports with eight other high schools in 2020.

Susan Pate agreed, stating that it is coming anyway.

Ms. Loo added that more information will be coming out to parents from the district. Currently the district’s curriculum page has all the information about PBG.

Danielle Mecham wondered if there would be supports offered to help explain the process to parents.

Ms. Loo stated that she would have parent meetings to help re-educate parents on how to view grades in this new fashion.

Deonna Weight called for any other questions about PBG. She then asked for any Lan Trust updates.

Megan Angell stated that we are good to as we voted on the teacher pay last time.

Ms. Loo let Deonna Weight know that she will message her to add an item in for next month regarding new sound equipment for core teachers.

Danielle Mecham stated that she helped proctor the ACT at Olympus and wondered how many of our kids were using the calculators that were purchased last year on the ACT test. She was surprised that all of the kids showed up with their own calculators. She also wondered if the teachers were using the Smart Boards that were purchased last year.

Megan Angell confirmed that the calculators and Smart Boards are being used in the classrooms. Ms. Loo added that each teacher who received a Smart Board had to attend a training before they were installed. She also indicated that she is seeing them used by both teachers and students during her observations.

Ryan Knowlton stated that only half of our kids show up to the ACT test with a functional calculator.

Danielle Mecham wondered if we would be purchasing more this year.

Ms. Loo indicated that the focus this year is to replace the old microphone sound systems for the core teachers, which will run around 44,000. Trust lands technology already had 30,000 committed, but she may need to add more.

Danielle Mecham was happy to hear that our kids are using and benefitting from them.

Final questions were called for and the meeting was adjourned at 5:01.

Next meeting on Tuesday, December 11th, 2018.