



Kearns High School

"Where destiny is a matter of choice, not chance."

School Community Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 10th, 2019

Parent Members Present: Deonna Weight, Jeralyn Kjar, Susan Pate, Christine Peasley

Staff Members Present: Maile Loo, Megan Angell, Ryan Knowlton, Misty Morrow, Cheri Jacobson

Meeting called to order at 4:34 by Deonna Weight

The roll was signed, agendas distributed, and everyone was welcomed back from summer.

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, Jeralyn Kjar seconded, all were in favor.

Deonna turned the time over to Ms. Loo for any updates. Ms. Loo reminded the Council that the District will be watching the TSSA funds. They did not require a formal proposal this year, but they will update us throughout the year and it may be run through the Community Council in the future. These funds have been focused on helping the 9th graders. The Instructional Coach is doing drop-ins and supporting the Freshman teachers. Ms. Loo believes they will be happy with how the funds are being used.

The time was turned over to Megan Angell to discuss the budget. She reminded the Council that the budget was originally written to include the salary for the Instructional Coach, but it was moved to TSSA budget. We need to reallocate the \$70,000 that was originally budgeted for this position. Last year we discussed funding attendance at conferences. There are two local math and science conferences this year that we would like to send some teachers to. They would be cheaper because we don't need to worry about travel and lodging. The Alek grant did not cover all our students this year. Land Trust will need to cover the remaining 700 licenses.

Deonna mentioned the projector replacement request for \$10,000 from the agenda. Ms. Loo informed the council that it was time to replace the projectors for all the teachers. The district paid for the original projectors, but it is up to the schools to replace them, much like the Chromebooks. The school tech fund will pay for half and we are requesting that the Trust Lands tech fund cover the other half. Last year we used the tech funds to put new audio systems in all the core classrooms. They have been a great addition for the teachers. Both Megan Angell and Ryan Knowlton agreed that they are better than the old system. There are some mic issues that we are working on. This funding would replace all the projectors that will no longer be repaired by the District. The cost will be roughly \$20,000. Ryan Knowlton wondered how soon they would be here. Ms. Loo would like to order them as soon as the motion was approved. She would like to get ahead of the other schools ordering as well.

Deonna asked if there were any additional questions before the vote. Christine Peasley motioned for a vote and Misty Morrow seconded the motion and an individual vote was held. Deonna Weight voted yes, Jeralyn Kjar voted yes, Susan Pate voted yes, Christine Peasley voted yes, Misty Morrow voted yes, Ryan Knowlton voted yes, Megan Angell voted yes, and Maile Loo voted yes. The motion was passed.

Deonna asked if we needed to add Alek to next month's agenda for a vote. Megan Angell said no because they were already included in the plan as well as the conferences. The \$10,000 for the projectors is coming out of the available \$70,000, so there is still \$60,000 left to allocate.

Ryan Knowlton asked if we needed any other Smart Boards. Ms. Loo indicated that all core teachers now have them. One of our other teachers wanted one and he is using his own account to pay for it. Megan Angell mentioned that there are a few older Smart Boards that are still using projectors and one Promethean board in the science department. We may want to get those five classrooms using the same boards as everyone else. The new board that the district is looking at is half of the cost. We would like to see what it is like before we commit either way. We may want to put it on the agenda for November.

Misty Morrow asked if school climate was a part of the budget considerations anymore. Ms. Loo stated that it was removed and it is purely academic now. Misty was wondering if we can use any of the funds for student safety concerns, like camera. Ms. Loo discussed the safety changes that are happening in the elementary schools right now. She believes the plan is to put those in place at all schools eventually. The cameras are on the school budget now. They have been updated at Kearns and are very costly. Misty is concerned that the cameras aren't dedicated to a hallway and rotate, making them miss several issues.

Ryan Knowlton asked about the large cost commitment to the EOS program from the TSSA budget and wondered if any of that money could go towards cameras. Ms. Loo elaborated on the EOS program for clarification. This program is aimed at gearing our able students to taking honors classes. The students and teachers will take a survey in October which will show us potential candidates for the classes and support in teaching them. Cyprus, Hunter, and Granger High are already on the program and they have seen doubling of the enrollment in honors classes. The District approached Ms. Loo about it and she researched the results so far and was impressed. The cost is \$25,000 yearly and can be paid out of TSSA funds. It will need to be re-evaluated next year and we will need to decide if the extra periods, training, and Instructional Coach can still be covered by TSSA. It was asked if we could move the cost of the Instructional Coach back to Trust Lands if needed as her presence ties directly to our school goals. Ms. Loo will share the results of the EOS survey with the Council in mid-November and the budget will be discussed over the next few years. It was mentioned by both parent and teacher members of the council that there is a concern of some students not taking honors due to anxiety issues and fear of failure.

Deonna Weight moved onto Council elections. We have not been approached by any parents to join yet. Please spread the word and we will have a flyer ready for Parent/Teacher Conferences. We would like to see at least two more parents to replace lost members. Danielle Mecham no longer has a student at Kearns. Bertha Santiago has a student here. Megan Angell will ask him if she will still be attending.

The new HAWK light is working in front of the Seminary building and is causing some concern. Parents and students need to get used to the lights and the new rules. Ms. Loo received a parent concern letter that was addressed to herself and Unified Police. Our school officer will be drafting instructions to be posted on the website and social media. There will also be a video created. Some believe that the traffic seems better in that area. The seminary teachers are reminding the kids to wait for the lights - they were used to just pushing the button and walking across. Deonna Weight will be reaching out to the Kearns Town Council to spread the message. It was suggested that the West Jordan Council should be contacted as well due to so many West Jordan residents using that road. It is not just parents, it is student drivers and general traffic. Many people are driving through on the solid and flashing lights. It has been requested that the SRO be out there to give a warning to those who don't obey the system.

Ms. Loo has contacted our officer and they will decide how to handle it. Misty Morrow commented that it is like anything else new, people just need to get used to it and read the signs - the instructions are very clear. Deonna Weight verified that Amanda Rosas is still running our Parent Center and wondered if she would let the community know as well. Jeralyn Kjar suggested asking for the signs in Spanish as well to help serve our population better. Megan Angell wondered if we could educate the students on how to use it. Susan Pate agreed and mentioned that many of our students are not using it correctly and could use a quick lesson on the light. Misty Morrow suggested that we have the SBO's create a video that could be shown at an assembly. It was agreed that she would approach Bob Ostberg, the SBO Advisor, about the video.

Susan Pate brought up the confusion at the end of last year regarding the school no longer issuing refunds. Ms. Loo explained that the District decided to keep the fees cost down and not have refunds rather than upping the school fees by \$10.

Misty Morrow asked the Council if school calendar event concerns were an appropriate topic for Community Council meetings. Ms. Loo and the Council agreed that it was a valid concern for the additional items piece. The Council is all about parent engagement in school issues. If there is a difficult principal who is not allowing the process to run appropriately it needs to be brought up by the teachers on the Council with GEA. Ms. Loo reminded the Council that she is always willing to hear from her parents and faculty.

Megan Angell reminded the Council that Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on the 23rd and 24th of September and there is no school on the 27th.

Christine Peasley asked how PBG was progressing at the school this year. Are the staff and students more comfortable with the process? Were there lessons learned from the prior year? Megan Angell feels like the math department has figured out the best way to run it and it has been much smoother to start this third year. Ryan Knowlton commented that a lot of the frustration comes from parents still looking at Canvas for grades rather than Gradebook. Christine wondered if the students were feeling better. Cheri Jacobson believes it has been a better year now that more students are seeing it. It was a bit of a learning curve, but it is better. Misty Morrow believes the students and parents need to know how to view both PBG courses and the concurrent/AP courses that are on traditional grading. Megan Angell believes that the junior high running PBG will help our parents as well. Jeralyn Kjar asked if the PBG system is better addressing student learning needs. Megan Angell believes that it is easier for her to narrow in on a specific issue the student may be struggling with and help them. Ryan Knowlton commented on the system allowing for a variety of assessments which allows the teacher to check knowledge on all types of learners. Ms. Loo agreed that it provides more freedom and creativity for the teachers to assess. It also allows for the teacher to fit the assessment to the student which eases some anxiety for the student.

Cheri Jacobsen believes that we should have an instruction night for parents to discuss skills to help students overcome some anxieties and work on soft skills. They are hoping the LIA parent night on the 11th is successful with some of these same issues. Megan Angell mentioned that the Freshman Academy classes are also focusing on soft skills. Cheri also mentioned it would be helpful to provide parents with links to suicide prevention tips. So many of the parents are asking how to get their kids to come to or stay in school.

Final questions were called for and the meeting was adjourned at 5:16.

Next meeting on Tuesday, October 8th, 2019.