



Kearns High School

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

School Community Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 8th, 2019

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

Staff Members Present: Maile Loo, Megan Angell, Ryan Knowlton, Misty Morrow, Kathlyn Anderson

Meeting called to order at 4:30 by Deonna Weight

New members were contacted - hopefully they will come soon.

Kathlyn Anderson, dance teacher at Kearns, was introduced as a visitor. She will be attending on and off throughout the year as part of her Administrative endorsement work. Deonna tabled the training videos until more parent members were present.

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, Maile Loo seconded, all were in favor.

Deonna turned the time over to Ms. Loo for updates. Ms. Loo referred to Megan Angell to discuss what has been encumbered so far. Megan Angell stated that we began with \$261, 897 and currently have a balance of 173, 860.99. The budget has been used for ParaProfessional salaries, conferences for math and science teachers, Aleks math licences, and new projectors. Ms. Loo discussed the TSSA budget as well. There has been no official word, but the budget may be an ongoing one. The budget is \$238,408.60 and will be used to cover the salary of the Instructional Coach, Christine Thomas, who is working out really well. Her focus is on the 9th grade teachers and she is non-evaluative. TSSA is also paying for a half-time counselor to assist with the social and emotional needs of our ninth grade students. \$87,479 has already been encumbered and there is \$131, 613.10 that needs to be spent by April. This money will also be used to train our 9th grade teachers on conducting home visits with our struggling 9th grade students. There will be a fifteen hour aide, who is bilingual, who will attend some of the home visits with Jen Johnson and our teachers.

Ryan Knowlton wondered if the EOS program cost could be taken from TSSA. Ms. Loo reminded the group that the EOS program is aimed at helping increase our student participation in AP and honors courses. Many other schools have been using this program and are already seeing an increase in enrollment in the higher level courses. She believes we could use it next year as we refine the program and the goal of our TSSA plan.

Elizabeth Slick, a new parent member, joined the meeting.

Deonna Weight moved onto the Safe Utah App listed on the agenda for discussion.

Ms. Loo directed the committee to the handout addressing school safety and digital citizenship responsibilities. She went on to discuss the Safe Utah app. This app allows parents and students to report any concerns they may be having in a safe and confidential way. They are required to share the issue and any names of those students they believe may be involved. During the weekend hours the

Granite Police will contact and check on the students and will let the administration know what to follow up on.

Ms. Loo also wanted to address several issues coming up with our students and vaping. It has been associated with bullying/forcing students into trying vaping. We had twelve episodes in one week where 911 had to be called. The kids are lacing the vape liquid with other substances. We had two students this week, one was transported, who had adverse reactions. One student was taking anxiety meds and reported that she was bullied into trying a vape that was laced with THC. The draw seems to be the cool factor with the vape tools. There have been so many devices confiscated that the police are running out of room to store them. They are leaving it up to the schools to make the decision to confiscate. Ms. Loo has instructed her admin to not return the devices, most of which are stolen from family members, as she believes they will end up back in the hands of our students. They are spending too much time dealing with this issue. They feel like they have a handle on the bullying aspect, but are struggling with the vape issue. She indicated that they are open to any ideas or input and this will be addressed with the PTA as well.

The concern is that until our state takes a stance and bans this we will continue to see a problem. Our students keep taking it to another level and there is a fear that it will take a death to wake them up. Skyline is dealing with a suicide epidemic and we are dealing with this. We almost lost a student last year as they were transporting him.

Deonna Weight asked if this was happening on school grounds. Ms. Loo informed the committee that it is happening down by the tracks, behind the baseball stadium and tennis courts. Deonna wondered what would help on campus. She understands that we have had several fire alarms due to the vaping. She referred back to Misty's concern about the cameras not being adequate for us to see these goings ons.

Ms. Loo reminded the council that we used to be able to address school climate/culture as a part of the Trustlands budget, but cannot any longer. It is all focused on academics now. When she first came to Kearns she invested \$38,000 to upgrade the cameras from an outdated analog system. Deonna wondered if we need more outside. Ms. Loo did put additional cameras in the front parking lot, the side by the auxiliary gym, and on the side of the auto shop, but we could always use more.

Deonna stated that the parents would need to lobby for the safety considerations to be put back in the Trustlands money. Ms. Loo said that this money is held by the state and if we put in anything that is not approved it will be sent back for revision. She is more than willing to bring it up with the higher ups if she has the support of the council. Susan Pate indicated that this type of a system would be needed in every school for different reasons.

Deonna wondered if we could look at corporate sponsors to help us with the cost. Ryan Knowlton asked if United Way could help. Ms. Loo said she would take it up with them. Deonna mentioned that her daughter had a friend who faced this same issue a few years ago. This is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed.

Christine Peasley asked if TSSA funds can be used for safety issues and Elizabeth Slick wondered what education is being provided to students about the vape issue. Misty Morrow said that our 8th and 10th graders receive a small amount of information as part of their health classes sections on substance abuse. Most of the responsibility lies on the parents. Deonna mentioned that many parents don't even

know their kids are doing it. Ms. Loo mentioned that many parents aren't aware of what their students are doing online as well.

She asked Aimee Duran, our LMETS, to address what safeguards we have in place for online safety in our district. The students sign an internet safety agreement at the beginning of the year. They are made aware that they are being watched at all times while they are on school issued devices. The teachers use LANSchool to monitor the screens and can limit what websites the students can visit. If they violate the rules they can be subject to a partial or full block of internet access on school devices.

Ms. Loo added to this that if the students continue to violate policies that the parents are notified. We cannot block cellular data. It is on this that most of the bullying takes place. They have to confiscate the devices and have the students unlock them so they can see what is happening. Cell phones are a major problem as our students feel invincible behind the screens.

Ryan Knowlton asked how Cyprus' no cell phone policy is working. Misty Morrow said that the kids can only use the phones during passing time and lunch. Ms. Loo said she would ask Rob McDaniel for an update. She also mentioned that several teachers still have students take out cell phones to look things up in class and then put them away. Susan Pate was concerned with this use of phones as not all students have phones to do this. Each teacher at Cyprus does have a Chromebook cart to avoid this issue.

The council watched the two videos, What does a School Community Council Do?, and School Community Council Job Descriptions. After the videos Deonna told the council they needed to vote on a Chair and Vice Chair for the year.

Ryan Knowlton nominated Deonna Weight for Chair and Misty Morrow seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

Deonna Weight nominated Jeralyn Kjar for Vice Chair. Ryan Knowlton seconded the nomination and all were in favor.

Now that more parents were in attendance the Council went around and introduced themselves to the new members.

Deonna Weight asked if there were any other items.

Megan Angell asked that the purchase of Boxlight screens be added to next month's agenda for consideration. The price is around \$2500 and we would need five screens to bring our core teachers up to par with the other devices.

Jeralyn Kjar asked if the HAWK Light seemed to be getting any better. Ms. Loo confirmed this. It was addressed at the assembly by our SRO and the parents and kids seem to be doing better. Misty Morrow said she noticed that many parents will still not stopping, but they were slowing down. Megan Angell noticed that the light seemed brighter. Susan Pate wondered if the button isn't pushed is it treated just like a crosswalk. Ms. Loo said yes.

Final questions were called for and the meeting was adjourned at 5:14.

Next meeting on Tuesday, November 12th, 2019 in the Admin Conference Room.