



# Kearns High School

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

## School Community Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 12th, 2019

Parent Members Present: Deonna Weight, Jeralyn Kjar, Christine Peasley, Liz Slick, Stephanie Rees, Mayra Binon, Bertha Santiago

Staff Members Present: Maile Loo, Megan Angell, Ryan Knowlton, Kathlyn Anderson, Cheri Jacobson, Amanda Rosas

Visitors Present: Lynette Wendel

Meeting called to order at 4:30 by Deonna Weight

Deonna started the meeting with introductions of new Council members. Time was given to Lynette Wendel to introduce herself and let the Council know about her hopes for District 39, which includes the Taylorsville/Kearns area.

Lynette Wendel shared information about her 20,000 hours of volunteer work and her early career in education. She wants to attend our Council meetings so she knows our concerns and needs as a school and community. She is extremely concerned about the upcoming tax reforms and would like to take back our feedback, advice, and requests. She has been at Capitol Hill for the past five years and education is near and dear to her heart. She handed out her card and let the members know that they can contact her at anytime with concerns or questions.

Deonna called for an approval of last month's minutes. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve, and Jeralyn Kjar seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Time was turned over to Ms. Loo for updates. Ms. Loo handed out the new School Community Council handbook to everyone - English and Spanish. She informed the council that the booklet has additional information regarding Trustlands.

She also shared information about the FAFSA completion night that was happening during our meeting. Kearns High School received a donation from Goldman Sachs and an executive from New York will be visiting the school to see how and where the donation was being used. When donations are received the donors have the choice to designate what area they would like the donation to be applied to, or they can leave it up to the school to pick the area of most need. Jake Housel, our United Way Director, has been looking at our data and determined that we have far too many students not filling out the FAFSA form for several different reasons. We started with a FAFSA night that only brought in 41 parents. We offered a dessert and FAFSA help and that number almost doubled to 81. This time we offered a dinner and almost tripled our attendance.

Cheri Jacobson add in information about the Utah Promise Scholarship. The U of U recently held a press conference at Granger High School announcing that they will provide the remaining tuition for those who qualify for certain Federal Aid programs that don't cover the entire amount. Ms. Loo has been making copies of the information and handing it out to students. She asked Amanda Rosas to start telling our parents in the Parent Center about this opportunity as well. Amanda confirmed that she will.

Most of the parents want the kids to fill it out, but they have a fears regarding their family situations, money, status, etc.

The time was turned over to Megan Angell to discuss Trust Lands Plan updates. Megan informed the council that the projectors have been paid for and installed. PM School has started and the teachers will be paid out of Trust Lands. There are currently eight students, four 9th and four 10th, who are attending this adjusted schedule. The budget has an unencumbered balance of \$156,514.88. We have already spent about \$100,000 and are on track to use the entire budget.

Deonna Weight moved onto the vote to adjust the budget to cover five Boxlight Panels. Ms. Loo asked Megan to make her case for this adjustment. The boards we are replacing are between six and eight years old and still require a projector to run. Many of them are starting to fail. The Boxlight panels are about half the cost of the Smart Panels and it is the direction the district is going. We saw a demo and they have some features the Smart Panels do not, such as more than two students are able to write at a time.

An individual vote was called for - Maile Loo - yes, Deonna Weight - yes, Bertha Santiago - yes, Mayra Binon - yes, Jeralyn Kjar - yes, Christine Peasley - yes, Elizabeth Slick - yes, Ryan Knowlton - yes, Stephanie Rees - yes, Megan Angell - yes. All were in favor, the budget adjustment was approved.

Deonna Weight moved onto any additional items. She let Lynette Wendel know this is where they may need her voice/input. The subject of additional security cameras has come up in past meetings. Due to the change in Trustlands moving away from school climate and only having academic spending the cameras have not been included in the budget. The Council feels that the need for the cameras has become an academic issue as well as a safety issue. Kids are leaving campus, vaping, setting off the fire alarms and causing disruption to class time as we have to evacuate each time they go off. Deonna indicated that she sent a message to Senators Mayne and Hutchings asking that this concern be allowed to be addressed as an academic concern.

Ms. Loo referred back to how outdated the system was when she arrived - still on analog cameras. The district has begun with the elementary schools to install the new security measures, the junior high will be next, and then the high schools. With the building of the two new high schools, Skyline and Cyprus, and all of the hold ups with the disagreements in the design, the cost of those buildings will go up and will continue to go up depending on how long the process takes. There is no monies allocated to help us with our camera upgrades.

Clearly the cameras are needed. There was some tagging done and discovered Friday morning by the food bank. It did not get cleaned up right away and there was retaliation tagging on Sunday. Ms. Loo contacted the District and someone came out so it was gone by Monday morning. That shed gets hit about twice a year. There is a need for a focused camera, as the panning one did not pick up on anything.

Amanda Rosas also mentioned how dark that parking lot is when she leaves late at night. Ms. Loo said that will be remedied soon. There was a problem with the bulbs that were ordered - new ones are on the way.

Christine Peasley also contacted Representative Thatcher and suggested that these concerns be allowed to be handled by Trust Lands monies. She brought up a Beyond the Books special that referred to a grant that was not applied for by Granite School District. In fact, only Juab District applied for it. The grant is specifically for security and mentioned cameras in the list of approved items.

Deonna Weight asked if it had to be the district who applies, or can the school. Ms. Loo said it was up to the school, but wondered when the grant closes. Christine said it will be open for a while and passed the application papers to Ms. Loo.

Ms. Loo reminded the Council that School Climate used to be a portion of the Trustlands money and she would like to see it changed back to allow the Council to have a say. Deonna Weight also said that the Legislature needs to expand its view of academics.

Lynette Wendel wanted to clarify what she heard - the Council would like to see security included as an academic concern as students are being continually disrupted academically due to these issues. She also wondered if there is a cost estimate.

Ms. Loo mentioned that Trustlands is about \$200 each year. They have been told that they can't use it to hire security, but she would be happy to commit  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the budget to school safety.

Amanda Rosas mentioned that two years ago, when they brought up a volunteer group to clean up the hill, the whole group was supportive of installing cameras, so she feels like we would have the support of the community.

Ms. Loo believes the cameras would be able to be added to the current system. The admin and school officer are able to access all the cameras on their computers. Six years ago when she used school funds to upgrade the system it ran about \$45,000. Deonna Weight wondered if that would translate to \$60,000 now.

Ms. Loo also mentioned that there will finally be some more secure fencing placed by the train tracks. They had installed barbed wire, but the kids cut through it. It sounds like they may put in some type of wall - which will be a tagging issue - but it will force the kids to walk around it. Ryan Knowlton asked when this would happen. Ms. Loo indicated that once they settle who is responsible for paying for it, the change will happen. Elizabeth Slick commented that she went to Kearns and it has been a problem for as long as she can remember.

Lynette Wendel asked if any schools have put a plan in place for cameras or vaping detection. Ms. Loo replied that no one in our district has. They know that the students are purposely blowing the smoke into the alarms to set them off. They currently only catch about 50% of the kids. Elizabeth Slick also reported that her student says kids are vaping in the classrooms when the teacher's back is turned. Cheri Jacobson also mentioned that so many of the devices look like pens. Deonna Weight said that Susan sent the Council out the article about vaping dangers.

Lynette Wendel asked if first responders come each time the fire alarms go off. Ms. Loo said they do not. They call District Security/Granite Police and give the admin a minute to check the panel and see what is going on before they are dispatched. Lynette mentioned that it might be a good argument for cost concerns if they were paying for first responders every time this happens.

Ms. Loo provided the Council members with a Region II Annual Athletic Pass so they can attend sporting events.

Megan Angell reminded everyone that the production of The Little Mermaid is happening this Wednesday - Friday and next Monday.

Final questions were called for and the meeting was adjourned at 5:03.

Next meeting on Tuesday, December 10th, 2019 in the Admin Conference Room.