



Kearns High School

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

School Community Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 10th, 2019

Parent Members Present: Deonna Weight, Susan Pate, Stephanie Rees, Bertha Santiago

Staff Members Present: Maile Loo, Misty Morrow, Ryan Knowlton, Kathlyn Anderson, Cheri Jacobson

Meeting called to order at 4:30 by Deonna Weight

Everyone was welcomed and asked if they had a chance to review the minutes from the last meeting. Ryan Knowlton motioned for an approval of the minutes and Susan Pate seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Deonna turned the time over to Ms. Loo for updates. She informed the council that the Trustlands budget has \$133,577 unencumbered funds. The bulk of these funds will go to hourly teachers at \$43,472; teacher salary at \$32,612, extra periods for core areas at \$23,326, and hourly aides/paras at \$17,802. We may need to move funds from hourly to salary at some point. There is also \$5,931 designated for staff travel. This will be used for AVID teacher travel and per diem in the spring. We need to make sure that we spend the entire budget which is usually not an issue. We went over a few thousand last year that the school had to cover.

The TSSA money has gone to the Instructional Coach's salary. She is currently working with our new teachers and transfers who are struggling with our tools and what is being asked of them. She is a non-evaluative coach. The administration are the only evaluative observers who have an impact on the teacher's job. Provisional teachers are easier to terminate as they do not have tenure. They have three years to show they can do the job or make the changes requested of them. If there are still struggles on the first evaluation of the third year they have to turn it around. Tenured teachers require two years of documentation regarding unfulfillment of requested changes.

The discussion between the Instructional Coach and the teachers is confidential. They will only go to Ms. Loo for resources.

TSSA currently has \$94,099 in unencumbered funds. Much of this will be used started with the new semester in January. Jen Johnson, our Vice Principal over Freshman Academy will be starting home visits with teachers and parents. The teachers will be paid at their hourly rate.

Ryan Knowlton asked if the teachers will go alone.

Ms. Loo replied that they will go in pairs.

Deonna Weight asked if the meetings were to help build relationships, not necessary to discuss school.

Ms. Loo confirmed this. They want to get to know the parents and get input from them. With all the new talk on the hill she is unsure where this funding will be for this project next year, so she wants to make sure we spend it all this year.

Deonna Weight moved onto the next item on the agenda - school safety.

Ms. Loo wanted to share some data from the SHARP Survey 2019. This survey has been in place since 2015 and provides good data for our school. It will go out to our counselors, social worker, and teachers. The council is the first to see the results. The survey was given to 75% of our 10th and 12th graders.

Ryan Knowlton asked when they take it. Ms. Loo responded that it changes from year to year.

Regarding the bullying results - they want all records of bullying to put records into Discovery. They want to make sure they keep track of it because several of the Skyline suicides were attached to bullying issues. We have been pushing relationships with teachers so the students feel like they have someplace safe to go.

Last week you should have all been alerted to an incident nearby that caused us to go on lockdown. Four juveniles were arrested for a string of armed robberies close to the school and the school officer alerted the administration immediately to put the school in lock down so they could not try to hide here.

Misty Morrow commented that many students believe it does not help to mention issues to adults - here or in the Skyline network - because nothing happens. Ms. Loo believes that we are trying to help with this misconception by making sure that the complaints get taken to a counselor or social worker right away. They are also constantly monitoring the Safe School app - even over the weekend. We want to be proactive and caring. In fact we had to pull our last social worker back a bit because he was trying to help so much that it started to interfere in his home time, so we have to make sure to set parameters.

The kids reported that they felt most unsafe in the parking lots and bathrooms. It will be proposed to remove the outside doors from the bathrooms so they can be monitored easier. Ms. Loo asked the council how they felt about this proposal. Misty Morrow mentioned that the Building Committee had brought it up before. Susan Pate asked what the plans for the new high schools looked like - do those bathrooms have doors? Ms. Loo stated that the plans have doors. Cheri Jacobson questioned why they weren't allowed to do it the last time it was proposed. Ms. Loo believed that they weren't ready at that time. Cheri also mentioned this may help catch students who are vaping.

Bullying over social media is a daily issue for our administration. They also found it interesting that so many of the kids perceived bullying to come from how they look and how they perform in school. Deonna Weight said they see this a lot with the higher achieving students. Many of them want to compare scores and say they did better than others.

Mental health issues were reported high on low treatment needs. We have had two students sent to UNI - both with suicidal ideation - one tried and the other didn't. The choice is made by the parents, but the school tries hard to work with them, especially during extended stays as they need to help academically to make sure the students stay up with homework and don't return to failing grades or extra stress.

The survey showed that the students are talking to their friends when they are struggling. This is difficult on the friends as many of them feel like they start to live that drama and it can be hard to separate the kids. They always place a call to the parents for support in these matters.

Depression is showing as moderate and our counselor and social workers are dealing with this on a daily basis.

Self-harm came in lower than expected. We tend to see this more with the girls and transgender students who feel in limbo. They have to convince these students to let the parents in to provide support. Some are initially angry, but come around and help their children.

Social isolation was high. Many students reported feeling left out. Cheri Jacobson commented that a lot of the students mention that they have no friends and they are not social. Ms. Loo asked them to turn those names over so they can try to pair them up with someone. Our Student Government kids are always willing to step up and help build those relationships. This works out well as the students tend to gravitate to other students, not adults.

Alcohol use reflected all liquor types. The administration sees more hard liquor in backpacks and the kids are using water bottles to hide it. Deonna Weight commented that the same issues have been in high schools for years - she remembers them when she was a student. They are drinking at home with parent permission. The parents need to be called out for this and they need to pay attention as many students report that they are stealing their parents alcohol.

Vaping has overtaken cigarettes on the usage chart. Many shops in our area have been turned in for selling to those under 21. They will still sell to those without an ID. They are also getting it from others - possibly stealing as well. The first use is changing from cigarettes to vaping across the state. They are hearing that the legislature might be putting in some new rules and the vape shops are upset.

Misty Morrow mentioned that the FDA has already removed the flavored vapes and are admitting that they cause lung issues. Ms. Loo wondered if the data from the hospitals are going to help them outlaw it. Misty spoke to the fact that it was originally designed to help people quit smoking. Ms. Loo also stated that it is the combining of fluids that is causing so many of the issues - the lungs can't handle it. Susan Pate brought up the channel five story that mentioned vape shops close to schools selling the liquids under a different name as they are restricted to a certain percentage of tobacco products being sold.

Cheri Jacobson mentioned that this is the same issues that cigarettes had in marketing to kids.

Maile mentioned that the kids are stealing the vape pens from parents and they are being confiscated. The parents are complaining as they want them back. They are technically supposed to return them to the parents, but if it goes as evidence to the officer than they can't do anything. Misty mentioned that it can be taken as it is in the possession of a minor and Susan Pate wondered how there could be proof of where it came from and who it belongs to.

They all feel like the parents need to have more communication with their students about these issues instead of turning them over to the schools for discipline. Peer disapproval was down - most didn't seem to care. It seems that the items are more available and Kathlyn Anderson noted that if the parents are using them it makes it harder to disapprove of the kids usage. Susan Pate believes the students are paying more attention to the TV and their devices, not their parents.

Misty Morrow observed that compared to the state KHS is doing pretty well in most areas. Ms. Loo agreed. We were going to have Ben Horsely out to do a safety seminar, but they felt like it was aimed more at elementary students. He is going to work on another presentation more geared toward secondary and hopes, with his busy schedule, to have it out by next year.

If there is a major issue that can't be handled by the school it will go to Ben to send out an alert. The sooner the better for parents. Misty asked if a call went out with our lockdown and Maile verified that it did. Misty said that she told her students that they don't need to alert their parents of anything as Mr.

Hansen will send it out to the social media accounts and a call will go out. We just have to be quick and make sure it happens.

Ms. Loo assured the Council that she would let them know and see the safety presentation when it is ready.

Final questions were called for and the meeting was adjourned at 5:18.

Next meeting on Tuesday, January 14th, 2019 in the Admin Conference Room.