



Kearns High School

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

School Community Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 14th, 2021

Parent Members Present: Amy McLaughlin, Sherri Sisk, Misty Startup, Megan Zierse, Paola Barraza

Staff Members Present: Danny Stirland, Misty Morrow, Aimee Duran, Cheri Jacobson, Amanda Rosas

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Mr. Stirland.

Danny expressed his excitement about being here. He asked the group to do a quick introduction. He started by letting everyone know this is his first year at KHS as a principal. He was a student at Kearns, helped coach basketball, student taught at Kearns, and taught for a few years at Kearns. He then went on to be an administrator for 15 years as an assistant principal, principal, and director in the district. He is thrilled to be back. The other members of the council introduced themselves and stated the number of years they have been on the council, what grade of student they have and/or teach.

Mr. Stirland let the council know that we are happy to have 99% of our kids back on campus. He believes it is easier to learn in person. We are still working on staying safe and distant, but it is better than last year. He now wants to focus on how to catch them up. Several hundred students have not been in person school for a year and a half.

Danny thanked everyone for being here and went on to let the council know that we need to elect a new chair and vice chair. The chair must be a parent, but the vice chair can be a faculty member. The council will help determine how the Trustlands budget is spent. The new funds for ESSER were added to help us address learning loss due to the Covid interruption. We will inform the council of the spending from that budget, but it does not need approval. So far those monies have been used to fund our summer school program to help with credit recovery. We ran the program for four weeks and many students were able to catch up on credits. We also paid a stipend to teachers who were willing to go out and do home visits over the summer. They were mainly porch visits - just a quick hello, welcome to the high school. Our teachers were trained in this national program. We wanted to welcome them, let them know we are here to support their learning. Mr. Stirland commented on how impressed he was by our 31 teachers who went on these visits. We also had administrators and counselors participate in the visits. We targeted our incoming 9th graders and were able to go to 550 homes. They wore Kearns gear and left packages on the doorstep of those homes where there was not an answer. They believe it was a success as our 9th grade orientation was packed. The money in this budget will also be used to pay for professional development for teachers and for attendance trackers. Our Instructional Coach will be paid out of these funds. Her job is to help our teachers build capacity. We will be paying for AP tests, supplies, calculators, textbooks, software, and technology. We ended up with 150 more students than we planned for, so we will also be using the funds to cover extra periods. October 1st will be our official day to report our final numbers which determines our FTE funding. Danny asked for any thoughts or comments regarding spending.

Amy McLaughlin verified that AP tests will be covered again. This was confirmed. Mr. Stirland did request that those who will qualify for fee waiver to apply for it so we can pay the reduced rate for the tests. We will also be covering the certification tests for EMT and college application fees.

We are also looking to hire more mentors and trackers. If anyone is interested please let us know. Sherri Sisk asked how many were needed and how many hours the job would be. Danny Stirland replied that we have a few right now, but they are being used to cover classes more than normal as we are facing a substitute shortage right now. Every school is struggling with that. Megan Zierse asked if the paras and aides are paid out of Trustlands like they are in the elementary schools. Danny said that he will follow up to see what budget they are paid out of.

Cheri Jacobson let the council know that all the credit recovery classes are free right now and have been loaded up to the schedules and to Canvas of our senior students. Other grade levels can get them added, but we are focused on the seniors right now. If they don't have internet access at home they can use the Career Center.

Paola Barraza took a moment to let the council know (in Spanish - translated by Amanda Rosas) that she has moved here from Chile and she would like to be involved. She has appreciated all the support they have received. English is a barrier for her, but she wants to be here and involved. Danny let her know that we want her perspective and appreciate her being here. She currently has one student here and another one is coming. Our non-English speaking students are immediately evaluated by our ESL program and provided with the support they need. Danny would like to have input as to how that process felt from the parents standpoint.

Dress Code - we are coming off of 40% of our students who have been on distance learning. This means 600-700 of our kids were not in school. The current dress code has been called outdated and too gender specific. This has been a very divisive issue and it was decided that a survey should go out to students, parents, faculty and staff, and the community. We had 519 parents, 117 teachers/staff, and 1,414 students reply. Amy McLaughlin stated that tank tops with wide straps seem appropriate. Sherri Sisk also commented that straps vs bra straps is a vague area - sports bras seem thick enough to qualify as well. Danny let the council know that there are more important things than the dress code, but we do need to have a standard as this reflects on the climate of the school, we need to be dressed appropriately and have professional dress in school. We cannot ever cover everything and we cannot all agree, but we did want to consider everyone's opinions and draw the lines. Any clothing depicting drugs, alcohol, or gang affiliations will not be allowed. Sherri Sisk believes it was important to address and appreciated that everyone had a voice. She believes that we should be making accommodations on both sides. Danny stated that he believes that we are preparing these students for life and they need to know that there will be expectations and they will need to follow them in the workforce. Amanda Rosas believes that the clothing the students wear can show respect for others and show who you are. This is a process of becoming adults. Danny let the council know that he is aware that dress standards have changed. Megan Zierse asked if there is data that shows that students perform better if they are dressed in uniforms or in code. Danny is not sure if they could narrow it down to show that it is a factor.

Sherri Sisk let the council know that she had looked into dress codes at other schools in other states, especially those in warmer areas. Arizona allows tank tops and shorts at the mid leg. Many of our girls want to have a tank top for PE due to the heat. She believes that the boys are given more allowance for this during PE. Misty Morrow let the council know that it is a distraction in her classroom when students come out of dress code. Danny also stated that we are not suspending students for these violations, they are just asked to change or cover up. Sherri Sisk was grateful for this, but believes that clothing has changed and that it is really hard for our girls to find stuff that is compliant. Amy McLaughlin agreed that

everything you see is shorter now. Megan Zierse also commented on those with longer legs - there isn't really a fair way to assess this based on different body types. She also asked who it is that is enforcing this? Teachers? Administrators? Danny replied that some enforce it and some don't. He believes that we all need to be on the same page. Sherri Sisk mentioned that there didn't seem to be as much of an issue last year. Megan Zierse agreed and wondered where this was all coming from. Danny believes that it was because there were not as many kids here last year and a lot of the teachers didn't bring it up. Misty Startup mentioned that crop tops are back in style and stock. Sherri Sisk also indicated that it is hard to judge - things are tight - slight midriffs are showing - fashion is everything to some of these kids. Megan Zierse believes it is easy to judge between spaghetti straps and a tank top. Mr. Stirland agrees that things can be too vague, but if they are too specific it becomes a problem as well. We won't be measuring midriffs, but we have a responsibility to have a standard. There will be a meeting with the Building Committee and the Leadership Team. They will get feedback from all and results will be shared. They want to listen to all and make as much of a compromise as possible.

Sarah Wall, a new Vice Principal, stepped in to introduce herself to the council. The council was informed that she was at Thomas Jefferson as a teacher for a while before going into administration. Danny Stirland also mentioned our other new Vice Principal, Jeremy Smith, who came from Cottonwood.

Danny went on to discuss what Parent Teacher Conferences would look like this year. We will have one in person day and one virtual day of conferences. All the information will be sent out via email and posted on the web page.

Megan Zierse asked if it would be held in the cafeteria as it has in the past. Mr. Stirland let her know that they were considering splitting the staff between the gym and cafeteria to allow for more social distancing.

Voting items - Chair and Vice Chair

Megan Zierse is already serving at the elementary school level.

Our Chair gathers items for the agenda and sends it to the school on a template form. The school will send it out to the council a week before our meeting. The Chair runs the meetings based on the agenda. If the Chair is absent, the Vice Chair steps in.

Amy McLaughlin volunteered to be the Chair. She made a motion to approve and Megan Zierse seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Mr. Stirland mentioned that we could use more parent members. If we get a good showing we will increase our staff as well to keep the ratio correct.

Misty Morrow volunteered to be the Vice Chair. Danny motioned to approve and Amy McLaughlin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Danny explained that we need to spend down the budget to leave no more than 10% to carry over. We will wait to hire more teachers in March (to get the best pool). We do have a student teacher in math who could become available in January. We will also be looking at more Chromebook replacements soon. If there are other items you think of please let us know.

The next voting item is to purchase and install three more Boxlight (interactive screens) in teacher classrooms.

Amy McLaughlin called for a motion to approve.

Megan Zierse made a motion to approve.

Misty Morrow seconded the motion.

Amy McLaughlin approved.

Sherri Sisk approved.

Misty Startup approved.

Megan Zierse approved.

Paola Barraza approved.

Danny Stirland approved.

Misty Morrow approved.

Aimee Duran approved.

The motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 12th at 4:30.