



Kearns High School

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

School Community Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 11th, 2022

Parent Members Present: Amy McLaughlin, Sherri Sisk, Misty Startup, Megan Zierse, Melissa Zimmer, Nikki Davis

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

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 by Amy McLaughlin.

Amy welcomed the group and asked if everyone had been able to review the notes from the last meeting. Misty Startup made a motion to approve and Misty Morrow seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Danny Stirland went on to give the budget updates. We are looking to order more monitors to put in the classrooms of those teachers who have received new Boxlights. Misty Morrow asked if we had received the new monitors from the District - we have and the ones we are looking to order are the same as those we received. We are also looking to replace cords for Chromebooks as several students have lost them. Amy called for a motion to approve the spending on the monitors and cords. Nikki Davis motioned and Misty Startup seconded the motion.

Amy McLaughlin voted yes. Sherri Sisk voted yes. Misty Startup voted yes.

Megan Zierse voted yes. Nikki Davis voted yes. Danny Stirland voted yes.

Misty Morrow voted yes. Aimee Duran voted yes. The motion was approved.

Mr. Stirland went on to discuss school data. The letter grade system for schools has changed. It is no longer on a curve. The grades and scores are available at <https://utahschoolgrades.schools.utah.gov/>

The grades come from the RISE test in elementary and junior high as well as the WIDA test. In high school we use the Aspire, WIDA, and ACT. They have also added in a growth score so we are rewarded for improvement. We are awarded more for growth in our lowest 25%. In high school they also look at graduation rates, 18 or higher on the ACT, and advanced coursework (AP, CTE, CCE). We have been trying to get more kids to take honors courses. We don't have solid numbers to compare due to the Covid excusal. Our graduation rate went up to 83.2% for 2021 after a dip in 2020 to 79%. We use this data to make plans and goals for the new school year. Megan Zierse asked how we can get some more CCE classes, not just AP? Danny informed us that they have several requirements to teach the courses, but we try to make sure we hire those who are qualified. Misty Morrow also told the council that we offer several CCE classes already. We have three in health sciences alone. We could offer more if more kids signed up. Cheri Jacobson mentioned that it is up to the teachers to push their courses and to ask the counselors to push them during course selection. They talk to the parents during CCRP and also encourage them during the junior high visits. Even if they take the AP class they do not have to take the test. It is a toss up. They only get the college credit in AP if they pass the test, but if they take CCE they

are stuck with whatever grade they earn in high school on their permanent transcript. Our GTI also offers several concurrent course options. They do have to take a double course to justify the bus ride up and back - which is free for them. They can also take courses at other high schools, but they have to provide their own transportation.

A few of the parents commented that they would have liked to know these things as their children were signing up for classes. Mr. Stirland agreed that we can always do better advertising and reaching out to parents. The course catalog is always available on our website. The students are provided with all of the information a week before class sign ups. Megan Zierse mentioned that she has always received an invitation to come and meet with her student and the counselor, but they did not see one this year. Cheri Jacobson commented that they have tried to meet with each parent this year, but they are always available with an appointment. Megan stated that the kids receive conflicting information from teachers and counselors as to what is the best class to sign up for. Ms. Jacobson agreed that there are pros and cons to the different options. The course cards are going out next week and they will be at the junior high schools in February.

Misty Morrow commented that it is best to ask someone who knows the student well enough to know where he or she would best succeed. Mr. Stirland also said that we are using the EOS survey to help encourage students to take honors courses. It also lets the kids tell us who is a trusted adult in this building that they can turn to. Cheri Jacobson thanked the parents for the feedback and let them know they are always trying to do better. Misty Startup said it is a good reminder of why they need to attend the PT conferences to also get advice on what to do next year.

Our conferences will take place on February 8th and 9th. February 8th will be virtual and the 9th will be in person. Misty Startup asked if these will be the same as the junior high nights. It was difficult to make it in person for both schools. Mr. Stirland is going to look into it (they are on different nights).

Amy McLaughlin asked if there would be any interest in joining the PTSA. They are always looking for new members. We are currently looking for a President and Treasurer. Misty Startup asked if Carrie Sue Lear was still there. She has moved up. We are also looking for parents to volunteer to be on the Novels Committee. They sign up and are asked throughout the year to read novels that have been asked for by teachers across the district and fill out a form regarding their recommendation.

We were able to hire an additional attendance tracker and math teacher. We would like to hire an additional content teacher for each subject if possible for next year to help lower class sizes and get rid of extra class periods. Megan Zierse commented that the Charter school she works for hired two full time substitute teachers. Mr. Stirland said that we have posted for that type of position and did not get a lot of response - one applied, but fell through. Our teachers have been stepping up to help out.

We may end up doing a test to stay next week. Parents have to sign permission online for the testing. If they are negative they go back to class, if they are positive they go home. They have not cancelled sports yet. There is not a plan in place right now to start testing athletes. Megan Zierse asked if coaches were allowed to say that kids could not come to practice due to exposure. Mr. Stirland said he would get the specifics and look into it. If we do go on dismissal the teachers are not required to teach synchronously.

Due to PT conferences our next meeting will be via email and we will meet again in person on March 8th.

Any additional items were called for. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8th at 4:30.