



Kearns High School

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

School Community Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 11th, 2022

Parent Members Present: Amy McLaughlin, Misty Startup, Nikki Davis, Cody Hancuff

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

Visitors Present: None

Amy McLaughlin welcomed everyone at 4:38

Danny Stirland took a minute to discuss our membership guidelines. We do need to have at least two more parents than employees. Some schools have to run voting, but we generally do not have that issue. Anyone can attend the meeting, but only those who are voted in as members can vote. Only a parent can be a chair and they generally serve a two year term as president. We have a new parent, Cody Hancuff, who would like to serve on the council. Amy McLaughlin made a motion to approve and Nikki Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Everyone introduced themselves and how they fit into our Kearns community.

Danny went on to explain the purpose of the council. We are looking for community input on how to use the Land Trust budget to improve learning opportunities for our students. The budget is about \$300,000 depending on our enrollment. It has been holding steady at 2,500 students over the past couple of years. During our next meeting we will share more of our data on the areas that we are measured in, including graduation rates, ACT scores, Aspire scores, higher level course enrollment, etc.

We spend on tech - including Chromebooks - as we have been on-to-one for the past three years. The Chromebooks last roughly five years. There are several software programs we invest in as well as interactive Boxlight boards in almost all our classrooms. One program we are going to keep investing in is NewsELA. This falls into our improving literacy goal. The program has articles from all subject areas and it will adjust the reading level based on what the students score on the reading tests.

It has also paid for summer school credit recovery, home visits to incoming students, para professionals and attendance trackers. We will pay for AP test balances and certifications as well. We have the students put down the deposit to show that they are committed to the test.

Misty Startup asked if we knew how many of our students actually take the test. Do we know why they do or don't take it? Did they feel ready? It might be good to have these numbers.

Cheri Jacobson feels that it needs to be encouraged more, especially if it is free.

Misty Morrow believes, from a teacher's perspective, that we should push CCE more than AP. There is not a big test at the end to earn the credit. They do need a B- or better if it is in their major. They still get the rigor without the stress of the test.

Misty Startup said they favored CCE over AP as well.

Danny Stirland agrees with and sees value in both sides. They try to offer as many of each type of course as possible. Sometimes offering these singleton courses (only offered one period) makes it difficult to schedule. When the kids ask to get out they are encouraged to stay a bit longer and try it out. We are getting ready to take the EOS survey - this allows teachers to recommend students for the honors programs and allows students to identify a trusted adult in the building - along with other data.

Cheri Jacobsen commented that it really makes a difference to our students when they have that extra support and encouragement.

Misty Startup would like the parents to be made aware of the various advanced class options available. It would be good to make it visually appealing when we advertise them. Nikki Davis agreed and asked if it could be advertised on social media as well.

Danny Stirland also mentioned that the Opportunity Scholarship, which took the place of the Regents Scholarship, requires the students to take AP or concurrent classes in social studies, math, English, and science. They have to take at least one year in each subject and must maintain a 3.3 gpa. Amy McLaughlin asked if they have to pass/take the AP test to qualify for the scholarship. They do not. They do need a C or better in the class. Misty Morrow asked if there was an informational flyer somewhere so that we can let kids know about it. We should also be advertising it in the junior highs so they can register for the right classes.

Cheri Jacobson mentioned the scholarship wall across from the Counseling Center and our big push for the students to complete the FAFSA this month. We need to send this information out in the parent newsletter so they know to ask their students about it.

Danny Stirland moved on to discuss our Graduate of Granite program. This has replaced our traditional citizenship program and will be used district wide next year. There are now five scores that represent our students as a whole. They went to industry to find out what they most look for/need in a quality employee. We will be getting back to needing a 2.0 in citizenship in order to walk at graduation. This was put on pause during Covid, but is back. They plan to move it to a 3.0 at some point in the future. Misty Morrow likes the program as it allows the parents to see what is going on in each class with the students. She feels like she knows her students well enough to easily fill out the categories.

The Novels Committee is looking for parent volunteers. Please consider signing up for book reviews.

Cody Hancuff asked about a tougher tardy policy. Is there a video that will be going out to students? Danny replied that we have had a tough go with attendance - it is hard to enforce and punish. There is not an urgency to get to class on the student's part. It felt like the pandemic exacerbated that problem. We need to find a way to make it better. Our attendance trackers don't make much and it is hard to keep them here. They are working on positive reinforcements - pride cards - donut cards, etc.

Misty Morrow suggested that the teachers have starters, on time raffles, etc. to help encourage them to be on time.

Cody Hancuff asked when a tardy is considered an absence. Danny said it used to be 15-20 minutes. The new system is 0-10 is tardy, 10-30 is a TW, and 30 plus is an absence. We are offering the ability to wipe out a tardy after 5 days on time to each class. They have to go to the admin to get it removed.

Questions were called for. No additional agenda items were brought up.

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