



Kearns High School

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

School Community Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023

Parent Members Present: Cody Hancuff

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

Visitors Present: Vanessa Park

Danny Stirland welcomed everyone at 4:37

The last meeting was held via email and there were no minutes to approve.

Amy McLaughlin has served as our chair for the last two years. She is open for a change. We can't officially vote at this meeting because we do not have enough members present. The chair cannot be a faculty member, it must be a parent. The co-chair can be a faculty member. Misty Morrow served as our co-chair last year.

Cody Hancuff asked what the Chair and Vice Chair's responsibilities were. Danny explained that they run the meetings by calling them to order, lead the votes, getting the agenda ready, etc. The Vice Chair fills in when the Chair is out. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday. There are some training videos we need to watch and there is an offer to represent us on the District Community Council.

Mr. Stirland went on to discuss how the cell phone policy is going. He provided a handout explaining the school wide expectations. This was put in place because there was a lot of concern from the teachers about disruptive cell phone usage. It was presented to the council and leadership team last spring. We had been following the district policy with various levels of implementation. There have been concerns of cyber bullying and fight planning. The policy has a series of consequences built in and we have not seen a lot of the higher level consequences. Many teachers are seeing good results. Not all are on board yet, but we are trying.

Cheri Jacobson commented that they were seeing better behavior and more kids paying attention in the breakouts. Many students do not like the new policy, and they are welcome to discuss it with the admin, but as of now the policy is staying.

Vanessa Park expressed concern that teachers were using the cell phones to take attendance. This seems wrong because not all students have cell phones. Mr. Stirland will make sure this is not happening. If a student states that they do not have a cell phone and it never comes out during class there is not an issue. If they have lied and bring the phone out, they will begin the list of consequences. Vanessa stated that many cell phones are also wallets. If it is kept in a backpack and not used during class that should be allowed. Mr. Stirland agreed that as long as it isn't used that should be fine. He also understands that we need to work on consistency. We do not want to send mixed messages to the students. Several teachers were doing it last year and it is good to support them and have more teachers on board with the policy.

Cody Hancuff said he loves it as both a parent and a teacher.

Cheri Jacobson agreed that we need more consistency. They need to tell the kids this is the school wide policy and follow through with it.

Danny noted that this is a big school and it can be difficult to know everything that is going on. He likes to allow for teacher autonomy, but this is a place where we need consistency.

Danny will send out a follow up email to the entire council next week regarding volunteers for the Chair position. The Council needs to consist of twice as many parents as staff members. If you know anyone who is interested, please let us know.

Cheri Jacobson asked how we advertise. It has been done at P/T conferences and via blackboard messaging. There is no set limit on numbers, but if there are too many we need to do elections. Danny apologized for the short notice for the meeting.

Vanessa Park expressed some concern about the late notice on the PACE/PTA scholarship meeting that took place the week before. There has also been no communication about PT conferences next week. She sees our posts on social media, but would like to see them on the website as well. We need more direct communication. Danny said he will speak with Mr. Smith about doing this.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10th.