

Olympus Junior High Community Council Minutes

April 14, 2014

3:00pm, OJH Conference Room

Present: Carole Harris, Dusten Kempner, Gayle Engh, Scott Gregory, Stephen Chard, Emily Ott, Tina Seastrand, Margit Caine, Laura Pinnock, Katie Graham, Jim Sheets

Meeting opened: 3:05pm

- 1) Welcome. Tina Seastrand made a motion to pass the April minutes. Emily Ott seconded it. All voted in favor. Minutes passed.
- 2) Counselor's Corner: Mr. Chard reports that Whitney Bates is a practicum student who will work with OJH counselors. A ten minute survey is soon to be circulated, asking how the Counseling Center can improve. Counselors are working with 9th grade students, whose English, Geography, or Math skills fell behind, desiring to bring them up to speed. The testing for 7 & 8th grade math compact scores are completed for local elementary schools. Counselors are working hard now for year-end and next year.
- 3) Principal Harris report: Carole feels things are going well. The SAGE testing is right on schedule. English is a long test, taking 2.5 class periods, to complete the essays. The Land Trust funds will carry over some extra money. It is a possibility to buy more clickers with those funds. Carole is looking at a program called "Exam View." It is much less expensive than Master Connect and would give specific data on who passed exams. It's made by a company called "Turning Technologies," the same company that makes our clickers. Everything would interface right away making things much easier. OJH finished our benchmarks this week. FTE: math class size is good, in the mid-twenties – and we added Mr. Jensen in science and art.
- 4) Dusten Kempner discussed Student Cell Phone Use and Policy. From the beginning of the year until the start of Spring Break, 317 cell phones have been confiscated. Is this a waste of teacher/administrator time? First offense: student comes to get cell phone at the end of the school day and notifies their parents about it. 2nd offense: parents comes in and signs for the student. Often, the biggest problem is parents trying to reach their own children. A big discussion commenced between the council members on hallway and lunch policy with use of cell phones. It was agreed that the policy should be relaxed to allow cell phone use in hallways and the lunch room to reduce 'busywork' in enforcement. The council discussed letting Individual teachers choose to hang a sign at their door stating, "Yes, cell phones are allowed in my class today," or "No cell phones today." Signs would be laminated with each message on the front or back allowing for flexible usage. Bonneville Junior uses the signs and council is contemplating similar usage.

Mr. Kempner also brought up the dress code. Some parents feel the cheerleading uniforms do not conform to dress code regulations and have complained. Council agreed it is a double standard and feel uniforms should be dress code compliant. More discussion to follow. Also, 2-tone SBO sweaters and 2-toned athletic jackets and shirts do not qualify with dress code regulations. Council rewrote a line in the Dress Code Policy to include: "No logos larger than a quarter. Olympus Jr. and Olympus Sr. High logos are acceptable; however clothing must still be dress code compliant. (For example: no two-toned shirts or jackets.)" [Underlined words are new.]

- 5) PTSA President Laura Pinnock has carry-over money. She and co-president Dayna Brand want to use it to support the English Department by helping to hire a writing specialist or a reader to help grade student essays, thereby saving English teachers' time and giving students a fair critique of their written work.
- 6) Olympus Junior High Community Council will now hold meetings in September. The first meeting of the 2014-2015 school year will take place Monday, September 8th. Council will check to make sure the Community Council election timeline allows enough time to include new members in the September meeting. Council will research the 2014-2015 school start date and discuss further.
- 7) Next Meeting: Community Council Lunch, Monday, May 12th, 11:15 at The Dodo.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05.