

Skyline High Community Council

Minutes of 2/18/21 Online/In-person Meeting

In Attendance:

Katie Dahle, Emeliee Dirks, Malia Groesbeck, Jessica Kerr, Tayler Khater, Tim Mundt, Mitch Nerdin, Monisha Pasupathi, Kim Paulding, Karianne Prince, Brodie Reid, Jennie Soulier
Guest: Victoria Hatton

Excused: Kim Lovato

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a. Katie Dahle made a motion to approve the December 2020 and January 2021 Skyline High Community Council Meeting minutes. Emeliee Dirks seconded the motion. Karianne Prince called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Mental Health Update
 - a. Victoria Hatton presented a mental health discussion to the Council.
 - b. Often, parents are coming to Victoria as students are struggling this year for the first time ever
 - c. One worry is that suicide rates often decrease when things are supposed to be hard (like during a pandemic) but then could increase when things are supposed to be easier (such as getting to the Spring during a difficult year like this).
 - d. It was asked how to combat this: SafeUT and Sharp Survey data, which are not the best indicators, but Victoria Hatton, Mitch Nerdin, and Tim Mundt have worked with other schools as well as the district to look into finding addition social/emotion learning data. We are responding to problems we have and trying to build for now and next year, specifically in improving social/emotional learning – giving students the skills they need to bounce back.
 - e. It was asked if the district was actively looking for a social work. Yes, but have thus far been unsuccessful. Other schools are at 1.5 days per week for a School Psychologist. Skyline pays for the remainder of Victoria Hatton’s full-time Skyline School Psychologist position.
 - f. It was asked of Victoria Hatton what her thoughts were on what should be done: Continue working on a school-wide method to work on social/emotional skills. A big part of Herriman (Victoria Hatton, Mitch Nerdin, and Tim Mundt met with Herriman’s Principal – Todd Quarnberg) recovery was tapping into the community – having events (parent nights) at junior highs and within community. Work with churches, business, etc.
 - g. Talk about what kids should do – not what we don’t want them to do. Teach resilience, choose life. It is what we want to do and what we are doing.
 - h. It was brought up that there have been suicides that have affected students, even beyond those that have happened at Skyline. This is an ongoing discussion and work done by the school and community.
3. Academic Needs
 - a. Mitch Nerdin presented that the language of Land Trust is such that we need to find and address the most pressing academic needs at Skyline High School.
 - b. We do not have 2020 data due to Covid. From 2019 data, compared to 20 demographically similar schools, Skyline ranks very high in Language Arts and Math and average in Science in both achievement and Median Growth Percentile (MGP), which is synonymous with good instruction.
 - c. No decisions being made today, just exposing to the data.

- d. Discussion over IB data and what it means, Mitch Nerdin will follow up.
- e. Discussion over 2nd grading period failure data. F numbers still rose but not as drastically as previous data may imply compared to the 1st quarter F's. Mitch Nerdin is working with teachers to allow flexibility and continued work towards success during this very difficult year – working with teachers on maintaining rigor but providing scaffolding. Meeting with and supporting teachers has worked well for them in turn supporting students and providing opportunities for those students to be successful and earn credit.
- f. There was discussion that most often where students are struggling is when teachers are not communicating well enough or students are not understanding the communication.
- g. Mitch Nerdin discussed the importance of the AP test data, as research shows that participation in AP courses prepares students for college.
- h. It was asked what data shows where the deficits are: the answer was grades, but this can be a little subjective.
- i. Brodie Reid gave the example of how multiple teachers teach AP and core classes, rather than just teaching AP/IB, which has raised levels in core classes as well, increasing proficiency. His point was that investments into AP can also be investments in core classes as well.
- j. Mitch Nerdin explained that we need to work on family engagement, which is not how well parent/families engage but instead how Skyline engages with families – building teacher/family relationships to help the success of students. Parents and teachers need to be on the same team.
- k. There was discussion about Credit Recovery. There is more needed than usual, and the focus is now on making sure seniors are recovering the necessary credit to graduate. The credit recovery team is identifying seniors in need. The Credit Recovery class is new within the last few years. A question was brought up about reaching more than just seniors, as there are students in the lower grades in more need now, too. More availability in the summer was brought up, and Mitch Nerdin addressed the need to identify and use multiple strategies to address the problem. It was made clear however that fees are not standing in the way of anyone trying to recover credit.
- l. Malia Groesbeck brought up the idea of specifically looking at old tests and data to help teachers improve. Mitch Nerdin explained that what she was describing is PD that we can have with district help. We will find specific areas where lacking and PD can improve, this can be done with quarterly PD and Summer Boot Camp.
- m. PD this year has been run specifically from presented and surveyed teacher needs. Much of this has been centered around technology and distance learning needs, but it has expanded to mental health, counselor help, and other teaching method training.
- n. Victoria Hatton let the council know about special education budget cuts. There was concern about not having a full-time school psychologist brought up and it was asked how many students does Victoria meet with? The answer was that about 10% of students have been met with more than once (not just drop-ins). Victoria explained that this year has been less about student drop-ins than usual and more about coaching parents over the phone. Distance learning has created this situation.
- o. Data on chill pass was asked for, stressing that mental health corresponds with academic success. Mitch Nerdin explained that there will be progress monitoring data and this will be identified in plan.

4. Graduation
 - a. Indications are that we will not be having graduation at the University of Utah, though this has not been finalized. We are working on a plan B and will meet with the Graduation Committee.
 - b. One idea revolves around doing a graduation similar to last year but using the baseball field instead of the football stadium, as that is not available after being torn down. Concern of how this type of graduation will that hurt baseball field was addressed – if would use, would have to rent rubber mats or something different to protect field.
 - c. Example presented that Highland High School used Sugarhouse Park last year.
5. New Building
 - a. Mitch Nerdin explained that he and others did go around the building and identified items that may be saved.
 - b. IB funding was brought up but this was couched as a Granite issue, not just a Skyline issue.
 - c. There was a discussion of next year and online learning. At least one other district has opened a fully online school, but we have our Granite Online program. The idea is to not have teachers doing dual modality again.

Next Meeting – March 11, 2021