

Skyline High Community Council

Minutes of 1/19/22 Meeting

In Attendance:

Juan Arce-Larreta, Katie Dahle, Malia Groesbeck, Alisa Hamblin, Kylee Joyce, Jessica Kerr, Kim Lovato, Mitch Nerdin, Monisha Pasupathi, Karianne Prince, Brodie Reid, Alexander Smith

Guests: Ben Horsley and Tim Mundt

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a. Monisha Pasupathi made a motion to approve the November 11, 2021, Skyline High Community Council Meeting minutes. Katie Dahle seconded the motion. Karianne Prince called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Drama Play *The Lightening Thief, The Percy Jackson Musical*
Book by Joe Tracz, Music & Lyrics by Rob Rokicki,
Adapted from the book, *The Lightening Thief* by Rick Riordan
 - a. Katie Dahle and Malia Groesbeck read the play. They said it was great and a really fun read.
 - b. There were some minor concerns
 - i. A character says they are going to get a knife and start stabbing themselves as a way to show that they are annoyed.
 - ii. Medusa has her head cut off
 - iii. There is a knife fight
 - iv. One character says “there is no way in hell”
 - c. These concerns will be passed on to Ms. Yamazaki.
 - d. Alisha Hamblin made a motion to approve the play, Brodie Reid seconded the motion, Karianne Prince called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Parking
 - a. Encouraging or incentivizing carpooling for students was discussed.
 - i. Facilitating students finding other students to carpool with was mentioned.
 - ii. The possibility of offering free or discounted bus passes was suggested.
 - b. There will be plenty of parking in the future, but we may not get any additional parking until 2026.
 - c. People are not interested in using the church parking lot.
 - d. Parking options were discussed.
4. Plowing
 - a. Snowplows pushed snow into parking spaces after the storms during winter break. That was an issue. When we got back from winter break, there were about 20 parking spaces that had snow plowed into them. The parking lot was a disaster after Winter Break.
 - b. The Granite School District Grounds Department came out and removed snow the week after Winter Break. However, we may not get regular assistance to remove the snow from the parking lot.
 - c. It would make more sense if they plowed after it snows.
 - d. The snowplow team is up at night when there are storms and make decisions as early as possible regarding snow removal. The Grounds team is made up of 15-16 individuals who are tasked to remove all of the snow at 90 schools. Sometimes they fall behind.
 - e. Ben Horsley will take the concerns back to the district.

5. Digital Safety

- a. Granite School District has a fairly robust Wi-Fi filtering system that is provided by the State. No filter is fool proof, but searches are reviewed and investigated.
- b. Granite School District provides an abundance of information to parents on the Digital Citizenship page on their website.
- c. A few weeks ago, there were some TikTok challenges and posts that had general threats. They were researched and found to have come from California and Colorado. There was also a direct threat to one of Granite School District's junior high schools. This threat was investigated and the student who made the threat was charged with making a terrorist threat and they are no longer attending a school in Granite School District.
- d. Granite School District needs help from parents. Parents need to be aware of the social media platforms that are available to their students. There are trainings and resources for parents. There are free programs that can be presented at the schools.
- e. There are an abundance of resources that have been e-mailed out to the parents.
- f. It was decided that there would be a link to the Granite School District Digital Citizenship website added to the Skyline website and Skyline App. Having a button on the App. was suggested.
- g. Sending the information out periodically was suggested because it is such an important issue. Students can be one click from seeing inappropriate things.
- h. Parent e-mails from Granite School District are often not being read.
- i. A District-wide white-ribbon week is in the process of being planned that would put the emphasis on this issue for an extended period of time.
- j. The district has not had more than 200 people at any events regarding this issue, anti-bullying, or anti-suicide.
- k. The district is happy to bring the resources to the school community.
- l. Community Council members will contact Ben Horsley with any additional concerns.
- m. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- n. Creating a campaign where students can be involved in getting the word out was discussed.
- o. Juan Arce-Larreta and Alisa Hamblin asked to be part of the group to help get the word out and get parents informed and involved. A meeting will be set with Principal Nerdin and a member of student leadership for early next week.

6. Land Trust Plan

- a. The school accountability metric is:
 - i. Achievement – 25% - proficiency in English, Math, and Science
 - ii. Growth – 25% - the percentage of students that demonstrate growth
 - iii. English Learner Progress – 6% - based on the WIDA assessment
 - iv. Growth of the Lowest 25% - 11% - making sure that we focus on students who are struggling.
 - v. Postsecondary – 33% - graduation rate, ACT scores, and course rigor
- b. Skyline SMART Goal #1 – Skyline High School will reduce the percent of students not reaching proficiency by 10% on state scores.
- c. Skyline SMART Goal #2 – Skyline will raise graduation rate from 94.4% to over 95%.
- d. Skyline SMART Goal #3 – Skyline High School will increase the percentage of students taking rigorous coursework from 91.8% to 93%.
- e. If we reach all of these goals, we will achieve growth in all of the areas of accountability.

- f. The best way to ensure growth is to improve instruction so teachers are given the opportunity for professional development during the summer.
- g. The Council also requested more psychologist support, so we pay half of the contract for our psychologist.
- h. We have a half-time social worker. The college access advisor is a small amount, less than we could do it ourselves. However, the University of Utah has not been able to find an advisor for us this year.
- i. The para-educators have been one of the most effective programs this year. Elle Moulton, Parent Liaison, has done a fantastic job helping students who are struggling. There is a really robust plan and interventions are in place.
- j. We hired an Instructional Coach, Marisa Cones. She is working with teachers individually and with the school collectively. Teachers have been able to reflect on ways they can get better.
- k. Extra periods and Chromebooks were also mentioned as part of the current plan.
- l. IB Coordinator, half contract, and IB training were also mentioned.
- m. Credit Recovery – is \$100,000 for Credit Recovery correct? This is for a summer program. We may not spend this, but it is there if we need it. Credit Recovery in the traditional sense does not cost anywhere near that amount.
- n. We have additional funds and not all will be paid for by Land Trust, but Principal Nerdin shared the following information.
 - i. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) training helped the school gear toward Professional Learning Communities (PLC's). This is the first thing we need to do to get better.
 - ii. The premier industry leader, Solution Tree, has an outstanding training. Teachers have been given the opportunity to attend this conference in June. There is a local conference one in October, but we cannot have teachers attend the conference and miss school. Granite School District has put in place a policy, due to the substitute shortage, that does not allow teachers to miss school for professional development unless it is absolutely required.
 1. The training they will attend will be in Las Vegas during the second week of June. About 25% of the faculty has expressed interest in attending. More than 25% would be better but it is hard to get teachers to give up three days in the summer.
 2. This will not be paid for out of Land Trust.
 3. Brodie Reid's wife attended the training, and it changed their PLC at her school. It changed the way they approached assessments, re-teaching, and curriculum building as a team. He is excited about going.
 4. If the 25% are trained, they can get more buy in and they can train the other 75%.
 5. In the past, we have only been able to take about five teachers but to have this many trained will change PLCs dramatically.
- o. IB Training/Accreditation
 - i. Principal Nerdin and Tim Mundt went to an IB training.
 - ii. Skyline is considered and IB World School. We are an IB school, not a school that has an IB program. IB needs to be more of an influence for all of the classes and students at Skyline.

- iii. The bulk of the students who are in IB, chose the path in eighth grade and they have a really strong support system at home. The program is such a high-quality program, we should be able to support more students who may want to join IB in ninth grade.
- iv. We need to create supports at school.
- v. It was asked if IB is not really important to college admissions. It was stated that IB is the most prominent credential you can gain for college admissions. It is not as linear in terms of credits, it is different than AP. It is a major consideration in the University of Utah's Honors program. It is a big signal of being ready to do great things at a university.
- p. The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program helps kids who do well with a core course of study and give them the supports they need to access a more rigorous path of study. Principal Nerdin has used this program at every school where he has worked.
 - i. Freshman Success teachers would attend AVID training. This would ramp up the Freshman Success program. The hope is that Freshman Success teachers could identify thirty more students who could access IB. They would be put into an AVID course and onto a pathway toward IB. This would be in addition to our current numbers.
 - ii. As AVID gains support, it could grow into support for other programs.
 - iii. Would this allow students who are not going for an IB diploma to access IB classes? Yes, there is such a benefit to taking the IB classes. If this is our top-tier curriculum, if we focus there, and get more students access to it, all instruction will rise to that level.
 - iv. We want every student to feel that they are part of Skyline.
 - v. The English department will only have Honors English next year. Teachers will allow all students to access the rigor.
 - vi. Keeping the Advanced Placement (AP) track is also important. We need to keep both tracks going forward but also offer single classes, so they are accessible by all students. We must have a robust AP program in addition to the IB program.
 - vii. AVID may require some funds from Land Trust to implement. It will also require funding moving forward. AVID is the program that targets the students in the middle. We have IB/AP at the top and we have Credit Recovery for struggling students but AVID is the program that will help students in the middle. There will be additional training this summer if we move forward with AVID.
 - viii. Student success in many things, having a job, communication, and other things are important. Are we only focusing on academics or are we going to focus on other areas? The IB training included information about involving the entire school, not just IB classes. Classes give students the support they need through other students and teachers. The AVID Elective course builds the whole student.
- q. Panorama
 - i. We are moving forward with the Panorama. This program identifies the social-emotional learning needs of the students so we can target their needs more readily.
- r. These are things that may or may not be part of the Land Trust plan. Principal Nerdin wanted to make the Community Council aware of these things.
- s. Freshman Academy and the Freshman Success Committee will be brought back. They were set aside because of COVID but they are being started again.

7. New Building
 - a. An update with photos was presented to the Council.
 - b. The Softball field progress was discussed.
 - c. The original staging area has been cleared and moved to the southwest corner of the campus.
 - d. The grass and turf fields should be ready by the summer of 2023.
 - e. The ADA walkway leading from the football field to the grass and turf fields and Softball field will be heated because it is always in the shade and would be icy in cold weather.
 - f. The gym space has a track on top. The track will not be open to the public, it is for students. There are rooms up top for wrestling, cardio, and dance.
 - g. The pool is progressing.
 - h. The cafeteria has been torn down.
 - i. This summer the athletic phase will be done and then they will take down the pool building and the gym to build the academic phase.
 - j. It's really exciting to see the progress.
8. Proficiency Based Learning and the A/B Calendar
 - a. Proficiency Based Learning
 - i. The frustration is the way Proficiency Based Learning (PBL) has been rolled out and the focus on the nuts and bolts of the way the district wants us to do it. The purpose is to help more students be more successful in accessing the rigor of school, then instruction improves. If it is not producing that, then we should stop doing it. That needs to be the focus. The district has been listening to the concerns and making changes.
 - ii. Parents said that they like that PBL is encouraging proficiency, but the concern is that it has allowed kids to procrastinate a lot more. They don't think they need to turn things in on time. We are losing some accountability.
 - iii. Parents also said that they like kids being able to retake things and become proficient. However, there is a lot more procrastination with the students.
 - iv. Supporting teachers and staff is the goal of the Community Council.
 - b. A/B Calendar
 - i. Parents have appreciated having A and B days on the same days for Monday-Thursdays.
 - ii. It's hard when you have a week with a holiday, sometimes you get three "B" days in one week, but the parents really like it.
9. District Community Council
 - a. Alisha Hamblin will e-mail an update to the Council.
10. PTSA
 - a. Juan Arce-Larreta spoke with Elyse Hunter, and she said that the focus of the PTSA is to support the teachers.
 - b. Supporting the mental health of the students, faculty, and staff was a major concern.
 - c. Assisting the PTSA to help the teachers was discussed. Healthy, happy teachers will only benefit the student body.
 - d. Appreciation was expressed for Monisha Pasupathi who created a presentation about the Healthy Minds App. that was presented at the professional development before the winter break.
 - e. Muffins and drinks were provided for the teachers and staff on the Teacher Contract Day.

- f. Supporting the PTSA with Land Trust funding was mentioned as a priority.
- g. The PTSA is reimbursing people applying to be substitute teachers for the \$40 background checks. It is great that the PTSA is willing to help with this.

Next Meeting – February 17, 2022