

**Taylorsville High School Community Council**  
**December 15th, 2021, 3:15 p.m.**

**1. Welcome:** Michelle Benson, Chair

**Attendance:** Michelle Benson, Erin Spencer, Andra Taylor, Betsy Valora, Brandalyn Seaman, Craig Free, Emme Liddell, Pam Hunter, Eric Timpson, Angela Wayman

**Excused:** Kory Cox, Jordan Kjar, Hillary Dalton (came but couldn't hear), Lisa Sudweeks, Traci Jones, Maria Miles

**Visitors:** Steven Wolf, Phillip Hare, Michelle Eberly, Rob Eberly, Sabrina Girona, Nicole McDermott, Danie Natter, Sheri Horton

**2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (Emailed last meeting minutes prior)**

Motion to approve: Erin Spencer Seconded: Brandalyn Seaman All in favor: All

**3. Counseling Center Update:** Mr. Timpson

11th grade finished CCRPs in November. 10th grade CCRPs moved to March, talking to them in classes about upcoming course selection. 9th grade CCRPs some finished, not all, also presenting info in class, will add more meeting times; they have a traveling 4-yr digital plan to start, and discussed credit recovery and Progress Towards Graduation. Went over the scores from PSATs with testing coordinator helping with College Boards, Michelle Eberly, and helping those students with next steps for testing and test prep.

Course selection 8th, 9th, 10th at night with parents: 8th grade=Jan. 11th & 12th at THS; 9th grade=18th; 10th grade=19th; 11th grade=in class. Teacher/course presentations will be available online.

**4. Principal Report/School Update/Business/TrustLand:** Principal Liddell

Spent \$44K for new social worker. Updating the computer lab as discussed in the November meeting. Have added trackers and also some additional aides for the SEL Behavior Units. Sharing a mentor with Kearns High, does home visits, GSD pays. Wellness Center is up and running, provides clothing, food, and a safe place for students needing social/emotional help or a break from class.

**5. New Business:**

- Michelle Eberly, testing coordinator presented proposal to ask for LandTrust funding in next year's plan to help with "preparing for and administering subsidized AP tests for all students (creating equal opportunity) from \$96 to \$30." AP teachers are working together to increase the program, possible AP info night and after school help, advertise AP courses. Currently there are 178 students enrolled in AP and not taking the tests. More students would if not cost prohibitive. Working with GEAR UP to help with Class of 2024's testing costs. Leftover funding could go towards mock test administration. Asking for \$50K LAND Trust funds to subsidize AP exams..
- Goals for 2022-2023 Increase College Readiness by: 1) Flat subsidized rate for all AP exams, 2) Increase number of students taking AP courses AND exams.

- 2021=438 exams, 2022=646, 2023=goal is 800
- Possible reasons for increase in 2022: Covid, GEAR UP grant money for all sophomores, 9th grade exams available in 2022, advertising and hands on help with registering, DLI classes growing. Possible reasons for increase in 2023: LAND Trust money subsidy, concerted effort to increase AP Class Enrollment.
- Research shows students who take AP courses and exams have better college outcomes than their peers. Even if they don't earn scores that qualify them for credit or placement, students who achieve AP Exam scores of 2 are still more likely to attend college and graduate on time, do significantly better in introductory college classes, often earn a higher score on the subsequent AP exams they take.
- More benefits of taking AP classes: save money on tuition, graduate sooner, classes impress college admissions officers, AP classes help develop college-level academic skills, these classes can increase your chances for college-specific merit aid, more flexibility in college.
- There are college admissions and merit aid advantages to having taken AP courses at competitive schools.
- The need for this subsidy is great in our community. The 2019-20 Student Outcome Accountability Report showed 45.8% of student population labeled economically disadvantaged, 31% of students in AP courses, 37% of students in advanced courses considered economically disadvantaged.
- AVID classes polled/GEAR Up info: AP World History administered 62 exams in 2021, will do 83 exams in 2022 when GEAR Up told sophomore students that all AP tests would be covered. Students not signed up to take the test were asked if AP tests cost \$30, would you sign up for the test and 68.6% answered yes.
- Proposal coincides with Goal #2 of current LAND Trust plan: Increase the percentage of students who are college-ready by 1%.
- Creating an environment in which more students will have the opportunity to earn college credit and be better prepared for the rigors of college; will be more competitive with our AP course offerings; will be fulfilling our school mission statement that through equitable practices, students will leave Taylorsville High prepared for college, career, and life.

#### THS AP Teachers:

Phillip Hare - taught in SC before here, 11 other states (including SC) subsidize all AP tests, changes climate of the classroom when all students are preparing for test, other district schools in UT are paying

Steven Wolf - taught in TX before here, all AP tests subsidized there, AP sections at THS are reducing/Honors sections increasing, need to remove the cost barrier

Rob Everly - a lot of students take the class but not the test due to cost

Sherri Horton - students every year that are not free and reduced lunch opt out of testing due to cost, not willing to waste \$96 if fail, still beneficial to take and not pass the test

Pam Hunter - called competitive schools, BYU has an AP page and AP is required, still bump up on admissions ranking if fail test, economics is a big issue for the test and college, this helps with school goals/mission

Principal Liddell - testing costs reduced across the board, not just set demographic, level playing field, not a new idea, a little late to the game, area to look at and help prepare students

Eric Timpson - students benefit from having AP class experience

Danie Natter - AP coordinator last year, students more likely to take more AP courses if successful in first, counseling center trying to increase rates, cost is prohibitive

Nicole McDermott - what other schools pay? Cyprus pays; Kearns and Granger subsidize.

Vote was taken and passed to use \$50,000 LandTrust money for AP subsidizing (10 members)

Motion: Erin Spencer      Second: Pam Hunter      All in favor

## **6. Follow up items from prior meeting:**

- SCC Rep for quarterly DCC meetings: Future meetings are from 6:00-7:30 pm in media centers, Jan. 25th @THS, Mar. 29th @ Olympus, May 31st @ Granger
- School safety: We have added a school officer from Taylorsville City. Met with GSD, THS, and City administration about adding an additional officer. Have been able to refer and remove students when needed depending on severity of behavior/crime; this is reducing fights.
- 9th/10th theater update - half in musical were 9th & 10th, doesn't let everyone in to make a better experience for all, Theater 1 and 2 and stage tech courses open to all; take courses in theater, choir, dance for more theater experience; roles depend on experience like sports
- Where do fine fees go? Usually try to get it back in same account, otherwise goes to student body account. Fines are usually not paid until graduation so payment can take years.
- Data on seniors on track to graduate: We will know at the end of semester if students have the 23 required credits or not and who is on track, will see data at next meeting
- Chromebook cord replacement cost is \$27

Motion to adjourn: Emme      Seconded: Pam Hunter      All in favor: All

Next meeting: **Wednesday, JANUARY 19th @ 3:15**