

YESS Program
LAC/Community Council
December 13, 2018, 11:30 am

Attendees:

Dave Koldewyn
Suki Cannon
Jason Rosvall
Mike Murry
Trent Clements
Cindy Willis
Janeve Jones

Ann Jones
Darcie Peterson
Jacqueline Bode
Stephanie Sinju
Clay Pearce
Steve Kaelin

Supplemental Funding Requests

This process has been completed and approved. We will be using the funding to equalize educational experience for students in our programs. YESS will be purchasing Drivers Ed simulators for Decker and for the two Transition Units. We are working with other service providers to provide teaching that is comparable to traditional school peers. University of Utah will be overseeing literacy initiatives, as well as implementing the Milkweed Project at Decker Lake Youth Center (DLYC). SLCC and Jacqueline Bode are working to provide college and professional certifications for students and college tuition for graduates at Decker. One Heart program, being offered to select students, will provide construction vocational training. This is through a partnership with Hamlet Homes and BMC to provide jobs to students after their release. Digital Responsibility is providing a mural and library resources to Hopeful Beginnings. Several libraries will be updated at select sites.

YESS is providing opportunities for our staff to improve their skills through professional development opportunities. Most of our tech equipment was replaced this year by Suki. We are going to be piloting a part time social worker in our program that will provide testing, crisis counseling, and group work with students, while also supporting transition plans to home schools.

Graduation Data

Jason spoke about the data that is being publically released in January with regards to graduation rates. YESS data will likely reflect numbers similar to those of last year. Dropout data still possesses significant issues with accounting and accuracy. He explained the reasons why this data does not accurately reflect our successes with students. Jason reviewed self-reported indicators that YESS gets to select that can better reveal our successes. He solicited feedback from agency partners about the best indicators we should consider using.

Land Trust Feedback

\$13,000 will be our anticipated allocation from Land Trust monies. Jason suggested that we use this allotment towards a reading tutor. A vote will be taken in February on the spending of these funds. Please give Jason your feedback.

District Data Results

We are seeing some trends in data since HB239 and HB132 have been implemented. Aggressive behaviors have increased. Truancy has increased at many schools. Safe School enrollments have decreased. We are doing a good job of responding to these trends but we need to do a better job of marketing to the community the successes we are seeing. YESS has been training our teachers and staff in DBT and Mindfulness. The concern was raised about losing students after they are released from our sites. We have been tracking students after they left Genesis. 65% of those students are not enrolled in school anywhere in the state after 3 months.

Bellwether Initiative

Jason was invited to participate in this national partnership that looks at the fragmentation of education for our students and possible solutions. Bellwether would like to interview students and staff in March to create a way to tell the story of these students. They will provide the structure and we will provide the content.

YESS Website – Suki

The agenda and meeting minutes are on our website as well as the list of committee members. Suki reviewed our blog and some of the successes we are seeing at YESS. Right now, we have 6 graduates at Decker and 4 of those are enrolled in college classes. Bridges Core Camp is being offered to students to teach them HTML, CSS and Java skills. Teachers are innovative in their teaching in order to engage students.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: February 21, 2019