

Community Council, January 8, 2015

Minutes

Members Present: Mark Durfey, Anne Hunter, Danni Eisert, Mary Ellen Rosen, Anita Longhurst, Lesa McSwain, John Goldhardt, Jennica Murray, Theresa Mbaku, Jeremy Taoalii

Others Present: Ilene Nelson, Kelly Taoalii

- Minutes from November minutes approved. Mark Durfey made the motion to accept, Danni Eisert seconded it. The vote was unanimous.
- Announcement of the School Community Council Training that will be held on Thursday, January 15th from 3:30-8:00 pm at Woods Cross High School
 - The Council has decided to send a formal request to the school board and Dr. Hirase to lower the Firewall. Jeremy Taoalii will draft a letter. Brady Nelson could help.
 - Three hundred (300) computers have now been updated. This increases their use by 3-5 years and doubles the RAM. Moneys paid by the trust: \$6807. Funds were matched by John Nelson.
 - School purchased access to six (6) online book classics for \$95. They are not blocked by the Firewall. Additional books can be purchased as they are added to the list. All books are regularly used in the classrooms.
 - Relooked at the Mentoring Program. Dr. Goldhardt does not feel that the current program is effective. Changes need to be made in tracking and calling parents. Discussion turned to the current “U” policy. Dr. Hirase will be putting a committee together this month to analyze and change the present policy, since it is currently not changing behavior. Jennica Murray and Anne Hunter volunteered to be on it. The State School Board has now clarified that parents can excuse any absences as they see fit. Theresa Mbaku said that in the Salt Lake School District where she previously worked that there were no “U”s but that teachers were allowed to tie tardies, etc., to grades by having “starters” – quizzes or points given at the beginning of class. Late comers were not allowed to make these

up. Attendance levels in high schools have dropped nationwide. Focus groups are being formed to study the phenomenon. We discussed a graded citizenship scale (H, S, N, U), but it must incorporate behavior improvement into the citizenship grades. Achievement for the different levels must be well defined.

- Dr. Goldhardt said that the TEAM class will be eliminated next year due to ineffectiveness. They will be adding 15 minutes of reading four days a week. Grade printouts will still be available weekly.
- Professional Development for teachers will be on February 13. There will be formative assessments using the FIT model. There was a discussion of the Kahn Academy (free online tutorials) that is being used in other schools. Dr. Goldhardt has made some inquiries and found that it can be helpful, but is not a cure-all.
- Dr. Goldhardt said that accreditation will now be evaluated in 5 year terms. The year 2016 is our year to be evaluated. Submission is done online. The school mission, line statements, school beliefs and goals all need to be re-evaluated. He requested subgroups to analyze the six standards. Those interested in helping are welcome to be a part of the committee.
- We discussed the need to inform teachers about making proposals for use of the council funds for the coming year. Jeremy Taeoalii and Mark Durfey will look into a good process for the proposals. We will know in April what will be our budget for the coming year. Dr. Goldhardt will give us more data on the greatest gaps in student's learning. We hope to use money effectively in order to help fill these gaps. The elective Math Lab seems to be effective in helping kids that struggle with math. The Boys and Girls Club continues to fund the after school math tutoring programs. The District is looking to have a math specialist that is half teacher/half specialist to help math teachers district wide.