

Community Council, November 6, 2014

Minutes

Members Present: Mark Durfey, Anne Hunter, Danni Eisert, Mary Ellen Rosen, Anita Longhurst, Nita Tuitupou, Lesa McSwain, John Goldhardt, Crystal Spackman

Others Present: Ilene Nelson

- Minutes from October meeting were approved.
- SAGE Test – low scores throughout. Discussed possible reasons why as well as other related topics.
 1. Math scores were the lowest.
 2. Science scores were the highest.
 3. The SAGE tests Level 3 & 4 thinking (extended thinking and strategic thinking) whereas CRT tested only Level 1 & 2 thinking skills (recall and skill/concept).
 4. There are no books for math since there are only 3 states that have adopted an integrated model. No books will be forthcoming because Utah is not a big enough state to entice the publishing companies.
 5. Our state model follows the Singapore math model, but we lack the resources to implement it in the same way.
 6. Opposition to Common Core is strong enough to possibly change the way math is being implemented.
 7. State has a new superintendent. He is not an educator, but has a law background.
 8. The best news for SAGE scores is that we can only go up. (At least let's hope so.)
 9. Seeking to do interim testing to see where we need improvement.
 10. Concerns that the African American, Hispanic and Economically Disadvantaged scored very low. Discussions on how to help.
- Discussion on how to use Land Trust Money in a more effective way in order to improve test scores.

1. Math Lab (extra help for students on the days they don't have math class) seems to produce the most bang for the buck.
 2. More effective professional development.
 3. In-house instructional coach for teachers.
 4. Make use of on-line helps such as Kahn Academy.
- Proposal to upgrade computers and increase RAM. Cost will be \$5-6,000, but John Nelson of the district is willing to pay half of the cost.
 - Talked about moving money from buying nonfiction texts to professional development that is research based, effective and gives teaching strategies. School may purchase 6 book classics for \$95 that will allow unlimited on-line use.
 - Motion to move some of the money to update computers to have increased RAM. Mark Durfey motioned, Danni Eisert seconded. The vote was unanimous.
 - Dr. Goldhardt wants to relook at the Mentoring Program. TEAM is supposed to fill the same role as mentoring, but it is hard to measure results.
 - Cornerstone (a program for at risk students) is coming to do 10 lessons on feelings, commitments, etc. There will be a girls group with a female group leader and a boys group with a male group leader. This will start in 10 weeks. The school does not pay for it; it is funded by a grant.
 - The council voted to spend \$5000 on professional development. Mary Ellen Rosen motioned and Mark Durfey seconded. The vote was unanimous. We want to have department chairs observe what other school districts in our area are doing to see what successes they have. Brighton High School's math department has had great success sharing Kahn Academy (free online tutorials) with their students.
 - Dr. Goldhardt asked members of the council to speak to the district about lowering the strictness of the firewall at the school. As of now teachers can't show videos or tutorials on YouTube because it is a blocked site.
 - Individual SAGE scores are coming.
 - No meeting in December unless it is needed.