

Community Council Meeting Minutes

Centennial Jr. High School

Wednesday, February 7th, 2018

4:00 -6:00 PM

CJH Counseling Center

Attendees

Kellie Robb, Daija Peterson, Tami Black, Melanie Hill, Jaynalee Peterson, Marcie Hayes, Michelle Duncan, Cerissa Thompson, Cindy Jenkins, Linda Francis, Ben Wheeler, Kathryn McKenzie, Brooke Karras, Mara Hammer, Sara Thatcher, Rob Madsen, Jennifer Dennis

Welcome & approval of January 3, 2018 minutes.

Rob Madsen and Jennifer Dennis came late in January, so we will amend the minutes to include their attendance.

Counselor Report

Ms. Robb, Vice-Chair, CJH Counselor

- Ms. Robb reviewed the academic honor roll statistics from 1st and 2nd term. 1094 students were on the academic honor roll (3.5 – 4.0) first term (71.4% of total students) first term. The number went down slightly to 1023 (68% of total students) for second term. This is normal, and the kids are doing an amazing job.
- Counselors are getting ready to begin meeting with 8th grade students the end of February. They will especially discuss changes to scholarships, particularly the Regents.
- Registration is also upon us. The high schools will be holding open houses and information meetings for 9th graders. Centennial is preparing for registration as well, although this is being held up until a decision on the 4x4 or 5x5 schedule is official. Fortunately, had great classroom size numbers, and probably will not be looking to hire any new teachers, so we do have time to get the schedule and some potential additional electives in place.

Principal Report

Ms. Thompson, CJH Principal

- There is \$63678.71 of Trustlands money that has not yet been spent for 2017-2018. Expenditures that had been approved, such as math productivity, collaborative professional development and some technology materials and training have been fortunately covered by the district, which is why there is significant money left. There is a need to replace teacher laptops, but the district is also starting a new computer refresh program that could start with Centennial getting 548 computers potentially. If so, we will have more money for other areas. Ms. Thompson will be able to report on that after upcoming district meetings. We will send a request to teachers, as to if they have projects that could use funding.

- February and March are the time for Community Councils to prepare their School Improvement Plans for the next school year. Ms. Thompson, and 2-4 community council members are invited to attend a meeting at the district on March 29th in order to work on and submit the plan. If you are interested in attending that meeting, let Ms. Thompson know. Additionally, between now and our March 7th meeting, through email, the conversation on what teachers would like to see as goals in the plan, and what we as community council members would like to see as goals in the plan.
- We discussed how perhaps some training for teachers to learn some specialized reading skills to assist students who don't qualify for special education, but still struggle with learning disabilities such as dyslexia could be useful. Wasatch Reading Summit, or the U of U reading clinic (a Wilson program) could be very beneficial to the English teachers, and perhaps others as well. Some of those trainings are even done onsite.
- There was also some discussion as to how to make social counseling for students more accessible. Parents are often uncomfortable pulling students out of classes for those opportunities, as so will often choose private counseling instead. This may or may not be something that would require funding.
- 5x5 Schedule Proposal was going to be used by all junior highs beginning in 2019-2020, so the district strongly recommended we go that direction. Since then, there has been feedback and pushback by schools and parents, so the district is rethinking that decision. Hopefully a final decision will be given from the district in the next few days, as it keeps the counselors from being able to move forward with registration. Most parents and teachers prefer the 4x4 schedule because no teaching time is lost in any class. But our teachers have been very proactive in looking at their curriculums to see what courses will need double-blocked. Everyone was moving their curriculums to more of a semester experience, and in many cases, a course could be completed in 1.5 semesters, rather than in two full year blocks. The advantage to 5x5 is a lot of flexibility, and lots of different electives that can be offered. However, the need for double-blocking really does take away time for numerous electives. No matter which schedule we go to, it might be a good use of Trustlands fund to implement LEAN training so that teachers can use the longer class periods productively.

English Department Progress

Mr. Wheeler reported that the English professional development they have received this year has been excellent. Virginia Riley at the district has been training them on how to use the information from SAGE tests to help students on an individual level. 7th and 8th grade students are having blended learning experiences already. For example, students may be set up in stations, one where students are participating in a Socratic circle, another where silent reading is happening, another where direct instruction with the teacher is occurring. We wondered whether money and time would be useful for the teachers towards the end of the school year to do another data dive, to see if these new methods are making improvements in student outcomes.

Blended Learning Overview

Ms. Thompson, CJH Principal

- Ms. Thompson gave a brief half hour overview of what blended learning can do for our students and how it can be implemented in our existing classrooms. She recommends visiting blendedlearning.org for more information, definitions, overviews, types, etc. She also recommended several books that do a good job explaining where this model is headed, and how it can help our students get the skills they need in this current economy: *Most Likely to Succeed* by Tony Wagner and Ted Dintersmith, *Bold School* by Weston Kieschnick, and *Blended* by Michael Horn & Heather Staker. She has copies of several of these books, and can get the others, and she would love to give them to you!! Stop by her office next time you're around and get those from her!
- TPACK is an acronym for Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge, which is where we hope all teachers can spend their teaching time (essentially a blending of using the technology and good classroom management to teach students content). "TPACK is truly meaningful, deeply skilled teaching with or with technology."
- Several elementaries, such as Heritage and Kay's Creek have started blended learning models that we will learn from. One thing that we know so far is that Schmoop works well in elementary, but is not as good for middle grades.
- There are several ways blended learning can occur: 1) Lab rotations: computer work directs where the teacher needs to fill in gaps of learning. 2) Class rotations: 3-4 small groups in the classroom each doing different activities. Quality time with the teacher. This is what our English teachers have been working on. 3) Flex: computer time mostly, teachers pull out kids to work with individually. 4) Pod: instructor for each pod, which is divided up not by age, but by content and skill. When content is mastered, they move on. Time in seat is not the most important. Our traditional schools are not really set up for pod models. Farmington High will be set up for flex learning to be more possible.
- Classes potentially are larger, but students actually spend more time with the teacher in the smaller groups. There are theoretically less classroom management problems because the students are more engaged and working on their own levels. However, Heritage has hired quite a few teacher assistants to help monitor classes—especially computer use.
- Blended learning is a lot more work for teachers initially as they set up programs. As things progress, the teacher becomes more of a mediator, and assessment and grading is actually faster and easier because it is more one on one. Ingenuity is looking like a solid program possibility to help teachers set up blended learning models, and can be individualized.

Next meeting will be March 7th at 4:00 pm.