

Herriman High School Community Council Meeting

Tech Atrium – 7pm MT

September 21, 2016

Attending: Darrell Robinson (Chairman), Danae Janis, Jason Mecham, Heather Thomas, Katherine Harbaugh, James Birch, Tricia Toponce, Brooke Ruff, James N. Crane, John Blodgett, Sterling Hunt (teacher) Mandy Green, Cynthia Archuleta (School officer), David Tilby, Kim Searle, Jolene Jimenez

Next meeting: Nov. 16, 2016

I. Welcome & Election of New School Community Council Chair & Co-Chair; Minutes Approved from Prior Year-end – Darrell Robinson

Jason Mecham nominated/Tricia Toponce seconded the motion to nominate Darrell Robinson as the Chair for the 2016-17 Herriman High School Community Council. Mandy Green expressed interest in a Co-Chair position. No others in attendance expressed interest in being considered. All unanimously in favor of the recommendations for both Chair and Co-Chair.

All accepted the final draft and approved minutes from year-end meeting school year 2015-2016.

II. Dates for School Community Council this Year:

To be held at 7pm MT in the Tech Atrium unless otherwise communicated

- November 16, 2016
- February 15, 2017
- May 17, 2017

III. Land Trust Discussion – Mr. Birch/Mr. Tilby

Last year the majority of our money (approximately \$145,000) was dedicated to salaries, additional computer lab and other necessary tech equipment. This year's budget has increased to approximately \$185,000 plus an additional \$75,000 held over from last year. Mr. Birch would like to propose usage of the money to include \$12/student to purchase pre-ACT test for all sophomore students. This would allow for immediate feedback for what they need in order to perform well on the ACT exam their junior year. This is different than the PLAN exam (which no longer exists). Proposal includes giving exam to all Sophomores in March during the ACT date for Juniors and the Seniors work on applications for college.

Currently ACT prep classes are too full. We need to open up 6 spots and also looking to teach ACT prep as an elective offering during regular school day. It would become a semester long course and could offer it to approximately 200-300 students/semester. If the money and FTE allows they could even offer it beginning the second semester this school year (January 2017).

Additional proposal from Mr. Birch included an upgrade to the technologies within the school. We currently have aging computer labs (7yrs old) that need replaced. Kim Searle investigated the cost to replace and estimated we could purchase a full three labs plus portables. Mobile labs are currently available in every classroom; however, math will need additional. A large majority of our devices are seven years old. We are looking to revamp the five-year plan. We have a PDM listed on age based. If PC then it has a four to five-year lifespan, but if Mac then we need to go longer because they are more expensive than PC. We have Chromebook labs/Netbook labs that are

nonfunctional with End of Life reached on many of those. There is a four-to-six-year life cycle on mobile labs and the costs are lowering. District will only allow us to purchase items that the district has the ability to service. The District has its own tech shop. No warranty. We polled teachers at the beginning of the school year requesting their preference in order to attempt to accommodate their needs/wishes as much as we could and use those factor balanced against the fiscal concerns. We hope to allow teachers to be mobile with their technology versus hardware that is bolted down (former policy) and provide them technology they are most happy with. Moving away from iPads and towards Chromebook. They are more affordable and good for Special Education needs as well.

Darrell Robinson inquired if we have done anything to get on the Utah Digital 101 Grant List. Response included insight that the District has to write the grant and determine who receives the grant/how the money is utilized. With this particular legislation the District writes the grant and then individual schools apply at that level including a plan on how the money would be utilized.

Council questioned administration to see how confident we are in being able to meet the need of our growing student body in the next couple of years until relief comes if the bond passes? Mr. Birch expressed confidence that we can do it and mentioned that a few local companies are helping (e.g. new Smith's Marketplace on Mountain View Corridor assisting with new infrastructure/network costs).

Motion made by Mr. Tilby to amend our current budget and utilize the extra money in the budget and pay for the pre-ACT exams and the remaining balance to update labs and additional technology needs. Council voted unanimously to approve.

IV. ACT – Kim Searle

Mr. Birch asked Ms. Searle to put together information from ACT scores (administration to include data as attachment). College readiness benchmarks since 2011 (when HHS started testing all kids and the scores did NOT drop. Historically only used the ones who took it (plans to go to college). Most schools reported significant dips when offered to ALL students. Ours, however is trending up and better than overall State trends. Our highest performance is in Language Arts and our worst performing area is Math where we see a gap.

Our concurrent enrollment numbers have jumped significantly. 22% of participants in the Districts come from HHS. Our number of courses offered have increased along with the number of our students earning college credit. Our Advance Placement course enrollment has increased significantly as well. This is a good picture in contrast to the message shared by the Sage Scores.

Mr. Birch expressed disappointment in our school receiving a D grade and admits the grade can only be as good as the test that is given. Our numbers reflect 430 students who opted out of the Sage Testing and data shows that those students who opted out are those with some of our highest GPAs. Further discussion included the concern that our students aren't taking it seriously as there is no accountability to the test. We cannot count grades for their participation on the test and therefore the students don't always care as much. The schools that are feeders to HHS are higher performing and doing a solid job. Additionally, our graduation rates are increasing each year. We have made a very concerted effort through the counseling center to improve graduation rates including following up with students to get their diploma/GED.

Further discussion centered on how we as a council can get the message out to the community that our school is performing well despite the media sharing only the message of having a "D grade." Some suggestions included:

- Mr. Birch shared our weekly school newsletter as a current success in providing additional positivity. Mr. Crane further recommended the Herriman City monthly newsletter to publish something and offered to assist Mr. Birch in getting something set up.
- Mark Escossio, who taught AP History had 100% students passing with high number of students taking that exam. That is noteworthy for sure.
- Six free online practice tests where our students can pre-test to determine their weakness/strengths and it also provides a composite score comparable to the regular ACT exam.
- Counseling Center is pushing questions to empower the teachers to supplement the Geometry instruction that is lacking in our classroom work compared to the content of the ACT exams.
- Mr. Hunt expressed value from a teachers perspective to do Pre-ACT exam vs Final ACT to show growth – which doesn't occur today
- SLO (Student Learning Objectives) with Pre and Post Test in the classroom...All but 1 HHS teacher passed and the one teacher who didn't is no longer at HHS. This requires a 35% gain by all students in proficiency. With the exception of Language Arts most tests aren't linear and even P.E. is required to take this. The most difficult classes to do well in this area are the AP classes because often students are so competitive that several perform exceptionally well on pre-testing leaving less room to improve than on some other subjects.
- We are seeing increased enrollment in concurrent and AP courses. Before registration each year counselors are printing every students transcripts and highlighting trends and encouraging students to enroll in AP or Honors or Concurrent courses prior to Arena Scheduling timelines.
- UCAW (Utah College Application Week) – Soliciting volunteers now for the week of November 7th. All seniors will meet in the media center to complete college application. FAFSA rules have recently changed allowing students to apply for FAFSA as early as Oct 1, 2016 using prior tax year information (2015) for 2017 college enrollment.
- PSAT – National Merit Scholar qualifying exam. Currently we offer only 150 exams. When we opened this up for student sign-up we had 200 students interested within a few hours and only 150 exams to offer. Counsel discussed ways we can increase the number of exams offered. The size of the Tech Atrium is also a limiting factor as we can only fit 110 students in and we then utilize a few other classrooms currently to accommodate the 150 exams. Discussion included the possibility of the auditorium for additional seating and that as we grow we will need to make sure we have a way to support the needs of our student body in this respect. Test requirements include space configurations that govern the way we offer.
- Mr. Birch in coordination with the Counseling Center have created a “Data Room” where they meet each Thursday and each Assistant Principal has a spot on the board and they can discuss individual student needs with remediation requirements. They are trying to include varying types of struggles not limited to academics only, but include students known to be struggling with suicidal thoughts or depression.

- “Golden 30” – in conjunction with the MAP program our lowest 30 reading scores will go to a reading specialist to provide help with their reading skills as that is a determining factor for future success.

V. Traffic Update – Mr. Tilby

Several of the pending traffic improvements are scheduled to happen over the fall break. We will be putting in an entrance by the tennis courts into the major parking lot. South Jordan and Herriman City are still looking for the funding and determining how to split the cost for some of the needed improvements and therefore no timelines have been established.

Friday mornings were challenging with the opening of a new Charter school on the same road as our school. The Athenos Charter School has since changed their school start time because the original planning commission approved their charter based on the start times not being the same as HHS.

VI. School Growth – Mr. Birch

Our current enrollment is 2850 which is 75 higher than District estimates. Despite this, we have been able to keep teachers in their own classroom with none having to roam room to room. We had 42 faculty members volunteer to take a 7th period in order to make this possible. Next year will require additional portables. The smallest class size going forward is 1100 and the current 7th grade class size is estimated to be 1,450. We are hopeful that the bond will pass to help provide relief as a new High School build time would be estimated at 4 years. By the time a new high school would be built we would likely hit approximately 5,000 students. However, boundary realignments will likely occur prior to that. Despite our current growth we are still at 2 lunch periods and our lunch staff has been able to effectively maintain it with approximately 15-20 minutes left in the lunch period when the last students receives their lunch meal. Riverton HS had to increase to 3 lunch periods when they hit 2800 enrollment.

VII. Any other Items Brought forth by Chair/Council – Darrell Robinson

Nothing additional, with the exception of additional support to do all we can as a school counsel to encourage the bond passing.

VIII. Adjourn

Heather to email the draft to all SCC Members to review and approve the draft

Next meeting- November 16, 2016 – Chair moves to adjourn. Seconded and Adjourned.