

Minutes 04.10.19

Attending: Mindy Robison, Willy Ray, Geralynn Barney, Shelley Allen, Sheradee Bradfield, Alyssa Powers, Amy Skelton, Emily Wall, Stacey Kratz, Rebecca Martin

Alyssa Powers made a motion, with Stacey Kratz seconding, to approve the minutes.

MYP report, Shelley Allen:

This month, to show how our actions have consequences that can be felt throughout the world, we are participating in Ocean Challenge: learning about how our actions impact the ocean and how being open minded influences actions. Students are talking about protecting and defending what we love and what other people love. Students are making sea creatures and, for every one they make, the Bezos Family Foundation donates \$2 to ocean conservation.

About 70% of our students earned MYP awards this year. We are so excited about that.

Geralynn Barney:

There are a lot of things going on this time of year. Key things:

- Mobile vision clinic this month
- Choose Gang Free parents' meeting next month; we are preparing for that now.

Counselors report:

Counselors are working on building the master schedule. We're pretty well hired for next year; we have had great success in hiring and got an additional FTE that we have filled. We got all the teachers' feedback and we're putting that puzzle together.

Safety report:

This month is the Great Utah Shakeout; it is the simplest of all the drills we do. All the school safety measures are working; everything is going well.

Bylaws, Willy Ray:

We approved these bylaws at the beginning of the year and then realized at training that we need to add to the bylaws.

The main thing is adding an item 7: a mechanism for removing members who miss many meetings; we are looking at wording to the effect that, if they miss three or more meetings without notifying the chair, they may be invited to resign.

Willy Ray will write that up and we will vote on adding it next month.

Parent-teacher conference report, Mindy Robison:

Data shows us that, in the high schools, about a fifth of the parents attend conferences. In middle schools, it's about 50%. It almost universally drops at spring conferences. They

would like SCC input on ideas based on this data and on the following proposals. The recommendations made based on this data are:

- August Freshman/New student orientation (either open house or back-to-school night; 2-3 hours)
- Fall parent-teacher conference (8-10 hours): one-day event from noon to 8 p.m., with the first two hours used for appointments. Schools could provide evening classes to teach families about school programs, explain how to access services, and how to use technology. Time could be allotted to teachers to set appointments.
- January orientation/training (2-3 hours): This time is to help families with the registration process.
- Third Quarter Reach Out (2-3 hours): This time is for teachers to contact and/or meet with families of struggling students.

Comments from SCC members on the parent-teacher conference data and recommendations:

It's hard to know how to react to some of these ideas without more clarity on how they will work.

Sheradee Bradfield: That Monday-Tuesday conference was awful in terms of the kids' energy the rest of the week and getting through the week. Most of the teachers would be in favor of this type of change.

Emily Wall: My only issue with this is I already feel like the fall conferences are too early. I think there would have to be a move in the dates because the teachers don't know the kids yet that early in the year.

Other members agreed almost universally that conferences used to be later than this and everyone had more of a chance to get to know the schedule, the classes, the teachers/students/parents, etc. We are in favor of possibly delaying the fall conferences a couple of weeks at least.

Maybe we should offer parents the opportunity to do a "reverse reach-out" and contact teachers during an open contact period with questions or concerns.

What about making the reach-out mandatory? Parents who most need to come are contacted and offered possible times to schedule a meeting with teachers.

Bradfield: What if they did this once a quarter? The problem for all of us seems to be we all want to have communication with each other but the issue is time/schedule, etc.

Flexible schedules (possibly Friday mornings at middle schools before late start)

These new ideas are great, but what we want in general is flexibility to run these things in the ways that work for our school.

What we're missing is also some social-emotional aspects: building relationships between teachers and parents and students, and examining the reasons behind any issues or problems.

Universally, board members expressed extreme dislike for elementary and secondary conferences on the same week. Monday conferences are a hardship on everyone and should absolutely not be re-done.

PTSA Update, Rebecca Martin:

PTSA is doing a luncheon on Tuesday, April 30 for Teacher Appreciation, plus Italian sodas and treats on Thursday, May 2.

Students also will write notes of appreciation to teachers; we will have notecards and they will write two notes to two teachers during third period on Tuesday of that week, and we will also do it during lunch on Thursday; we're rewarding them for writing more notes with a small treat for each note they write at lunch.

Mindy Robison suggested asking parents to write notes, as well.

Feedback on school fee proposal:

What they're doing for next year is implementing a maximum aggregate fee for each student and also establishing that, if there is a fee, it has to be up front. The middle school fee draft schedule was reviewed, with maximum allowable amounts listed for various activities (the fees CAN be less than that). The only thing that would not be waived is the yearbook. The goal is to make the fees more transparent.

School Plan for SB149, The Teacher-Student Success Act

You have your LAND Trust money which each school gets, and in addition Canyons is getting about \$5 million through SB149. The new LEA (Local Education Agency) handles the allocation of the distribution. It's distributed the same as trust lands money. You can, if your district is average or above average in teacher salaries, take 25% off the top and increase those salaries. The money doesn't come through until April or May; we can't spend it until we receive and allocate it. Schools can expect to get from this new law about 80% of our trust lands money in addition to our regular trust lands distribution. The law says what you can and can't do with the money. We can add more to all the things we have already done with our trust lands funds under the CSIP, but one thing the school is really missing is after-school and summer programs. I think we're really missing an opportunity to do something for our incoming sixth graders, possibly a two-week program to get them used to middle school. Also, we have a lot of kids who hang out here after school. We feel like the things we've missed is sports, activities, arts, and service. We'd like to offer more after-school opportunities, and we can do sports and arts under district rules because they're tied to curricular standards, and service because it's tied to MYP standards. All kids would be welcome; I'd like to look at possibly one after-school bus to get more people involved. We're thinking the activities would run 3-4 p.m. or 3-4:30 p.m. This is also a great opportunity to build cultural awareness at our school. Next year we're going to have two FACS teachers and possibly we could cook cultural foods with them after school, as well as building other cultural activities into our after-school plans. Looking at the research into turnaround schools, we'd like to keep them here longer. Research shows that, when kids want to be at school and activities and options are provided for them, it can help turn the school around.

For next year, we will make a plan for this money similar to our CSIP plan. We feel like we've done a good job funding our other priorities, and we are excited about the opportunity to add to what we're already trying to do. We may add student leadership opportunities, such as a board for students to plan the sports, to plan the arts activities, etc.

Trust Lands Budget for 2018-19/CSIP review, Mindy Robison

We're dispersing the grants we previously approved already. We're expecting to get to our threshold in terms of spending, and if we don't for some reason, we have it built into the CSIP that we can buy more Chromebooks to reach the level of spending we need to reach.

Next meeting May 8, 5:30 p.m.