

School Community Council Meeting Minutes - September 12, 2023, 3:00 PM
PJHS Library

Parties Present: Kevin Mecham, Katie Miller, Travis Young, Laura Wright, Allison Booth, Tim Mendenhall, Jackie Larsen, Jen Gasser,

Lindsey Huges and Ben Ford were present for part of the meeting

Parties Absent: Zulma Farnsworth, Stephanie Riggs, Tammy Halcrow

Matters Discussed:

- Introductions of Council Members and those present in the meeting were made.
- Rules of Order and Procedure were explained. A handout explaining basic rules was reviewed.
- Motions were made to nominate Chair and Vice-Chair with unanimous votes cast for Laura Wright as Chair of the Council and Travis Young as Co-Chair.
- There was a basic overview of the role of the Council and connected goals. We discussed how School Trust Land money is connected to School Improvement plans so this year's goal and money was set by last year's council. This year's council will create goals and funds for next year. We also discussed that this year we will need to discuss Safe-Walking Routes, Digital Citizenship, and if needed, volunteers for things such as book reviews.
- A training presentation was given in the form of a video produced by Utah State Board of Education.
- Assistant Superintendent Ben Ford introduced himself and Lindsey Huges. He told the Council that he is seeking parent feedback on a proposed calendar for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. He explained how we must be in school for 180 days with 5 Teacher Development Days. We cannot start school on a Monday but must be finished by Memorial Day. Questions were raised about why we need to start school so early, why we have Development Days and if we could attach the random Monday one in September to another day off. More discussion was had on pros and cons of a long versus short Christmas Break. Ben Ford is presenting the Calendar to the Board on Sept. 13 but will still seek input from teachers and parents.
- An overview of last year's School Improvement Plan of adding in Study Hall was presented. This year, we have Study Hall for students who are failing or are in danger of failing their core classes of Math, Science, Language Arts, and History are pulled from their elective classes to work on class work. Last year we saw a decrease in failing grades from the previous year by 42%. Additionally we discussed the new Advocate Program where we have identified 40 of our most struggling students to work with 4 Advocates. They will help track attendance, grades, assignments, and communication with home. The question was raised why we focus so much time on students who do not want to be in school while there are kids who are struggling that do want the help. We discussed how we can look at that and make a plan for this upcoming year.

- Council Member Ms. Booth raised a concern about Chromebooks in the classroom and what is being done to help with students misusing the device. A discussion about LanSchool and how it works was conducted. It was asked about training for teachers and we explained that a training for teachers was happening at the same time as this meeting. Ms. Booth inquired about students bringing their own Chromebooks and we talked about liability and that there could be Firewall issues with personal Chromebooks.
- A representative for the Superintendent School Community Council Meeting on October 25, 2023 at 4:00 PM at Springville High School was asked for. Ms. Wright volunteered to go with a member of the Admin Team.
- Council Member Ms. Larsen brought a concern about what's being done about Payson Jr. High's Testing scores. The school has had consistently low scores and was wondering if the issue is being addressed. Mr. Ford let her know that the district is aware of the issue and there are plans for some help for the school. Mr. Mecham then added that this is an issue we can work on with the counsel through the year and that there is a team forming both on a school and district level to help with the issue as well.

Votes Taken:

Chair and Co-Chair vote was taken.

Motion to Adjourn: Laura Wright

Second to the motion: Jackie Larsen

Next meeting is October 10, 2023