

DHS Community Council Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015

Attendees: Richard Swanson, Gregg Laub, Julie Treadwell, Diana Anderson, Allison Frazier, DeAnn Draper, Dianna Barton, Dorothy Watkins, LeeAnn Hyer and Bradley A. Chapple

Diana Anderson, assistant chairperson, welcomed everyone and excused Julie Tanner, who was out of town.

Gregg Laub read last month's minutes and motioned they be approved. Dianna Barton seconded the motion.

Student Body Officer Report

No student body officers were present, yet LeeAnn Hyer reported that they had successful fund raising during the month of December. \$13,400 with Sub for Santa, \$8K in the Dash for Cash and \$975 with the Bachelor Auction.

School Plan Progress

2013-14 Financial Proposal and Report

Mr. Swanson was pleased with Davis High's recent A-grade in the report cards released for Utah schools. The excellent grade was earned because of SAGE scores and AP/Concurrent enrollment and improvements in attendance (see Truancy Tracker below). Mr. Swanson also noted that, despite some people's opinions, he likes SAGE testing because it compares the student to him/herself with the previous year's results. Even though the test changes from year to year, he feels it provides an accurate assessment. Only two high schools in the state received an A – Viewmont and Davis.

Trust Lands funds that Mr. Swanson felt were inappropriately spent were discussed. Expenditures that are incongruent with policy have been addressed and money from the school will be put back into the trust lands fund account. Mr. Swanson has also requested an audit from the District to make sure there aren't any other discrepancies.

Truancy Tracker (\$19,430.00) has been effective and it closely tied to credit recovery/graduation rates (where DHS was recently graded.) In last year's graduating class, 701:710 students graduated. Of the nine that did not graduate, detailed documentation has been collected throughout the years and great effort was made to guide these students toward earning their degree.

The possible use of grant money for Education Reform Training, (\$12,800 = 8 staff members @ \$1,600.00 each) the SLC Conference in New Orleans was discussed.

Again, Mr. Swanson expressed concern over past discrepancies in trust land fund allocation that have been noted. He emphasized:

- School improvement goals must be tied to community council/Trust Lands funds
- Measurable outcome or tested areas are appropriate uses for funding.
- The public can access the last 7 years of the school's plan and expenditures via

Schoollandtrust.com school plans > country > school.

- Laws mandate that a school cannot carry over more than 10% from year to year without a specific explanation of how those funds will be used. (Surplus funds may be used for anything pertaining to educational instruction, within that school year and not previously earmarked, if there is an overage at end of year.)

Mr. Swanson will start bringing in the monthly expenses for the council to review at each meeting. He is committed to correcting all things that have been off in the past.

In the 2015-16 school year, DHS will receive about \$130K in Trust Land funds - similar to this year.

AVID Discussion

Alison Fraser reported on the visit that she and Dorothy Watkins had at East High (an AVID school) in Salt Lake. Alison indicated that she did not feel like it was not a good fit for Davis. However, it could be in the future.

Rationale:

- East High's funding has come from their District. Davis High's would not.
- Many AVID schools use a Gear-up grant to fund AVID.
- At East High, they are focused on first-generation, college bound students. The demographic at Davis is very different.

It was emphasized that in order for an AVID program to be effective, it needs to be headed by a dynamic, Julie Laub-type, individual. The program also works best with students that have been participating in the AVID program in feeder schools.

Mr. Chapple reported on his experience when he ran an AVID program at Layton High. It was run as a prep period and he did not feel like it was effective. There's also a risk that some teachers may not "buy into" a new program and different teaching methods if they feel their current methods are effective. Mr. Chapple feels the most important emphasis should be focused on the abilities of a motivated teacher; one who integrates life-skills into his/her class and actual teaching

Julie Treadwell expressed her concern that she doesn't want the concept to die, even though she didn't feel AVID was a good fit for DHS. Diana Anderson wants to look at specific teaching methods that would help that middle 30% (7-800 kids.) Mr. Swanson said that he has some ideas. The council would like for us to address it again and hear his thoughts at next months meeting.

The council concluded that paying to bring in the best teaching practices is less expensive than buying a program.

ACT Prep

Gregg Laub and Mr. Swanson indicated that they are looking at implementing additional ACT prep opportunities for students in the Fall. DeAnn Draper asked if there was a way for parents and students to better interpret ACT scores.

We also discussed the importance of avoiding big events, like school dances, on the same weekends that the ACT test is offered. Time was up and it was suggested that we continue our discussion at next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.