

**Syracuse Junior High School
Community Council Minutes
February 15, 2017**

1. Attending/Welcome

2. Review of Minutes: The minutes were approved on the January and February 8th meetings.

Action Items Review

3. Report ALEKS: Dr. Hadlock met with the math department chair and will continue to have an ongoing dialog. First semester of ALEKS was to get students caught up and second semester is supposed to go slower and focus on getting a certain number of assignments done. Two concerns were raised from the council; first ALEKS requires internet access at home so what should we do about those who may not have it or have to limit ability to access it (having to share computer between siblings). The second concern was that ALEKS calculates where the student should be at and this may be ahead of what is being taught in class. The student is then penalized for not completing the assignment, even though they have not covered the topic in class. Dr. Hadlock will discuss these two raised concerns with the math department:

4. Lunch and Learn -Mentoring Program: The proposed language describing the Lunch and Learn program was read (see January meeting for description). Dr. Hadlock brought up the idea of not continuing Lunch and Learn and suggested instead that a mentoring program be implemented. The mentors would continue to work with the students during advisory or other identified times, but not during lunch. Students are seeing this as a punishment instead of an opportunity to catch up on homework. The council discussed an option for after school tutoring but nothing was official decided yet. A motion was made by Dr. Hadlock to end Lunch and Learn and change it to a mentoring program. The motion was seconded by Doug Peterson and the motion passed.

5. Spanish Immersion Questions: Buffalo Point Spanish Immersion students start 7th grade at Syracuse Jr. next year. The plan is to follow the same model the current Chinese Immersion program is using this year. Immersion students will take one class in the chosen language in addition to a culture/literature class. There will not be any core classes taught in Spanish or Chinese. Next year, Chinese Immersion classes will be a mix of 7th and 8th graders. It was mentioned by council members that some students in the immersion program are behind in the area, such as math or science, that was taught in the immersion language in elementary school.

6. Grades Review: This agenda item will be delayed to the April meeting

7. SIP –March Meeting: The meeting will take place in the Syracuse Junior High Media Center. Department chairs will be giving presentations. Departments will analyze their strengths/weaknesses and overall goals. A presentation will then be made to the Community Council for inclusion into the upcoming years SIP. The district is not providing overall goals this year.

8. Adjourn–The next Syracuse Community Council will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.