

**Community Council
Viewmont High School
Main Office Conference Room**

Minutes – 9/18/19

In attendance: Heather Mackenzie-Campbell, Tiffany Rees, Jason Smith, Michele Strong, Chad Bowles, Annette Godfrey, Sam Phister, Gabe Robbins, Malissa Wolfer, Shon Feller, Shawn Johnson, Neola Jones.

Excused: Kristin Van Brunt, Wesley Quinton.

Malissa Wolfer welcomed everyone and brought the meeting to order.

1. We don't have a full council, so we will just have an informational meeting. We have an upcoming election, and we have three seats from the Community, and we have two faculty openings. We have, at this point, 4 candidates who have applied for the Council. The deadline is September 20, and we will hold an election on October 1. Please remind neighbors and friends that we have this opportunity. Mr. Smith pointed out that it was formerly the rule to have a rep from each feeder elementary. There was a question of how long the election should run, if it needs to be longer than one day. Malissa will check on that and we will act accordingly.
2. Malissa talked about the School Improvement Plan. Goal 1 – Student Growth and Achievement. We will go into this more when we have a full council. Mr. Smith explained that any goal that is approved for a Community Council purchase must be in conjunction with one of the four areas
3. ACT Prep – Our main goal is to raise our school's ACT scores. Our school's ACT scores are already high, but we want to always improve.
4. Standards Based Grading – Mr. Smith discussed the new grading system. We will go over this again with a full council, but we are trying to get word out wherever we are able to.
 - a. The District has a 5-year specific laid out plan, all schools should be using Standards Based Grading (SBG) or "Proficiency" grading. We have started to move towards that at Viewmont this year. One of the biggest challenges is changing the mindset of students and parents. The main thing to know is that we believe that a student's grade should reflect what they know. In elementary schools, they already do this. But that hasn't happened in secondary schools. A lot of the way we grade is not reflective of a student's learning. If a teacher offers extra credit, that affects the grade but doesn't reflect learning, and conversely if a student is dropped, same concept. There are several teachers who are already moving forward on this. The mindset is that parents need to see scores and grading progress in myDSD. But under SBG, they will not necessarily see that. Parents will have to change mindsets, and since the junior highs are already doing this, we will hopefully have parents of incoming students that understand the process.
 - b. Right now teachers are frustrated because it's hard to convince the students to do the practice assignments because they are not assigned point values. We will be talking about this more, and we will be talking about it a lot this year. We have to get away from the rigid grading practices of the past and move forward. It's unclear about how scholarships will be handled. CE Classes are different, and we are bound by what the university says. So it may not be everywhere for the time being. If anyone knows of issues or concerns out in the community, please send them to Mr. Smith.
 - c. Michelle Strong asked how the students are reacting to this new system. Mr. Smith responded that it is a little mixed. She also asked what happens if a student's final mark is

'not proficient' Mr. Smith explained that the grade would remain, and the student would be required to work with the teacher until they can change that grade. It is possible to change grades throughout the year, even back two to three terms if necessary. If a teacher wants to add in a penalty for late work, a U may be built in. Behavior and academic proficiency do not always match. Gabe Robbins (Student Body President) gave an example of Miss Jones, a VHS teacher, who accepts late work at full points value, because she just wants proficiency. Mr. Smith said that it is an example of our teachers beginning to figure this out. Motivating the students is a challenge. But it's a process and we will continue to work on it.

Motion to adjourn by Malissa Wolfer. Chad Bowles seconded the motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned.