

Centennial Junior High

Community Council

November 13th at 4 pm

Minutes of the Meeting

Attendance: Michelle Thomson, Sara Thatcher, Marcie Hayes, Sean Morrison, Erin Stumo, Michele Duncan, Julie Tanner, Cindy Jenkins, Cerissa Thompson, Marcy McQuiston

Special Welcome to our School Board Representative Julie Tanner

Questions regarding construction and need for more communication with regards to our student's safety at street crossings. Cerissa will continue to follow up with Kaysville City in addressing these concerns.

Minutes from last Community Council were accepted by Sara Thatcher and 2nd by Marcie Hayes

Principal Updates

1. Trustland Budget review shows that funds are being spent according to our spring budget plan. There is some money that has been allocated for spring teacher training falls, so it is not excess, just not being used this 1st term.
2. Standards Based Grading – 1st term completed

GPA for Centennial is back up from last year's drop.

Interesting to note – Attendance is down by 2% probably due to the lack of interest for parents to clear excused absences. This number reflects unexcused absences only.

Most teachers are feeling okay with the standard based learning with a few still struggling. It is about a 80% doing great and 20% struggling. It has been noted that project-based classes make standard based grading easy while it is harder in classes that have to assess progress. Our classrooms are using the 90% test based, 10% participation standard.

The English department has established a sliding scale rubric so kids aren't penalized 1st term for what they are just starting to learn and should be proficient at by the end of the year. Ie: writing skills. It was suggested the parents also get a copy of the rubric with some explanation for classes using this type of sliding rubric so there are not any surprises at the end of the year.

It was noted that there is less flexibility for AP Classes.

Also, that there needs to be consistency between subjects. Her daughter's English papers are getting good grades and yet the same writing is showing a need to improve her writing skills in Science papers.

Are they going to be ready for college with the sliding scale and lack of accountability for homework as it is perceived as not really counting for much?

Erin, our new instructional coach discussed more on how the sliding scale will meet standards by the end of the year and that teachers do miss not having the homework incentive. Homework is being procrastinated which leaves a lot of teachers stressed at midterm and with end of term deadlines.

Teachers are doing their best to help students make the connection...do your homework, you will be better prepared for class discussions and tests.

Teachers that give feedback to students on assignments seem to be more successful at getting students engaged.

Julie Tanner asked about how the 20% who are struggling with the standards based program are doing? Do they feel support? How

Cerissa talked about several options they have in place to help teachers, but how many are not sure and how many are thinking this doesn't work for me is still unclear.

Professional Development

Centennial participates in the Pilot group with 7 other Jr Highs

TSSA funding for summer prep time was offered

The school hired an instructional Coach – Erin Stumo

National presenters have been brought in to share and educate

Counselor Update

1. Eric Shennager Training received positive response from teaches. All the teachers and staff seem to see the value, they just need to find a way to put it into practice. Remember any good change that is sustainable takes 3-5 years to implement and make the shift.
2. Julie asked about interviewing students about Standards Based Grading.

Feedback is coming, she is working on getting a good cross section of students and will report at our next meeting.

Are there classes or subjects that SBG just doesn't work?

Are we squelching teachers' talents?

Not at the Jr High level the DESK Standards are still very flexible, but still meet the NSTA and SEED Standards that continue to change.

3. We have to be strict on standards. Teachers are finding ways to teach the material and still get passionate about specifics to their subject that they want to share with their students. Grades are based on the Standards.
4. Cerissa made a recommendation and book available to everyone. Rethinking Grading. It's a fast read, but there are lots of good facts we can use. The framework has changed on how we can best get these kids ready for College.
5. Parents are interested to know where their students is at in relationship to the Standard.

Marcie discussed how at Farmington High School, there were many students who got an A at the end of the year and how that changed all previous term grades to A's also. It was also noted that parents want to understand and asked for a conversion chart to the ABCDF – what is a 3.68 – a solid B? Still trying to relate to new scores being given.

6. 9th Grade CCR's have started – students seem to be okay with SBG, but many are still struggling with procrastination.
7. Thunder Camp is costly to do each year, how important is it that we continue this program? Does it meet our goals?

DEFINITELY! Jr high is such a big change, it's good for the students to meet their teachers – reduces anxiety.

8. How can the counseling department help?

Topics suggested were

7th graders are stressed out

Bullying

Cyber responsibility – the kids never get a break from technology -phones bring an extra layer of stress

Chat groups – using them the right way so students can share and not be a distraction

How do avoid distractions

President's Report

1. RULES of ORDER - needs some updating

We need to establish a procedure for electing members to the community council. This will ensure all schools have the opportunity to be represented that are feeding into Centennial Jr High.

Marcy will write up the proposed language for our next meeting. This is based on feeder schools % of students as to how many representatives each school has serving on community council. There will also be a new school in fall 2020 – not sure how many students will feed into Centennial yet.

% of students that feed into Centennial Jr High is as follows

Columbia Elementary 25%

Endeavor Elementary 100%

Kaysville Elementary 55%

Snow Horse Elementary 100%

Votes require 50% of members to attend and also states that there will be 2 more parents than school representatives to form a quorum.

2. Yearly school timeline

This will help our community council not miss any deadlines so as to properly implement our plan.

Michele Duncan motioned that we should adopt the proposed schedule and Marcie Hayes 2nd that motion.

Cindy Jenkins will finalize that document to be included in our rules as well at our next meeting.

3. Digital Citizenship at Centennial Jr. High

- a. There will be a new plan in place for 2020/21 school year allowing students 1-1 computer usage. This may be implemented earlier as we do have the computers and it is taking up to 15 minutes of class time, just to get students booted up and ready to go.

It will look something like this: Students will pick up and log in at the beginning of the day and take their computer from class to class logging out at the end of the day before returning computers to their charging stations.

- b. School has tech signs in the school – Sara Thatcher will work to put together power point presentations with a different topic each month to display and help students define things like...What is Bullying? What is abuse?

It was suggested we also send the power point slides home so parents know what the kids are learning.

There will be information presented to incoming 7th grade students on their computer, what they get, what are the expectations and safety measures will be adopted to help keep kids safe. The school does have filters to help with this.

It was noted that however, sometimes a student's phone is faster and also allows students to utilize apps and other sites that are on their mom and dad's unlimited wi-fi and data plans. The school does not filter personal devices.

Also, as long as Microsoft Suite is available to our students, so is Minecraft. It is important to educate parents about software to protect their kids.

Suggestion to get computer sleeves to protect computers from damage.

4. School Safety

- a. Social and emotional learning is coming online to be taught during the school day.

Casel.org curriculum is what the district is using.

- b. CJH Emergency plan was turned in the end of October and the new doorbell and check in policies are in place. Additionally, there are several new solar lights are being placed around the school and the marquee is being fixed.

Sara Motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 5:13 and Marcie 2nd the motion.

Next meeting December 11, 2019