

Syracuse Junior High School
Community Council Meeting
Library, 4:00 p.m.
21 October 2020

Welcome and Introductions

Attendance: Wendy Remley, Vicki Hassard, Kenneth Hellewell, Andrea Smith, Kelly Zalit, JuleeAnn Rivera, Michele Arigot, Dawnelle Call, Shelly Thorne, Melanie McManus, Travis Warnick. Thomas Holbrook, visiting.

Melanie McManus and JuleeAnn Rivera introduced themselves as new members of the Council.

Minutes

Minutes were read by Andrea Smith and approved by the Council.

District and State Training

Next training session is Wednesday, October 28 at 6:00. Training will be recorded and available to watch if someone is unable to attend at this time. All members of the Council must watch the training by November 20th.

SIP and Trustland Review

Reviewed current goals and budgets. Because of Covid restrictions and some surplus money that was available in the school budget we have \$22,152 that we need to reallocate to spend toward meeting our goals.

We currently have 2 mentors that are working with students who are not doing well in school. 15% of our students currently have 4+ F's. This is a much higher number than in a normal year and our mentors are overwhelmed. The staff affirms that when the mentors are able to work with a student, they can see a change in behavior and grades improve immediately. It would cost \$13,350 to hire another mentor so each grade would have a mentor. The Council voted and unanimously approved this expenditure.

The Council discussed several options for the remaining money:

- An after-school tutoring program.
- Hire a 4th mentor—decided one per grade would be sufficient and there wasn't a workspace for a 4th mentor.

- Train parents on how to use Canvas—this is something that is already going to happen with online training videos.
- Cameras for teachers to record lectures for students at home—the school just purchased 50 cameras.
- Counseling needs—The Move This World program is already being funded.
- Plexiglas for at-risk teachers—the school already has Plexiglas in place for our 32 high-risk teachers.

The Council unanimously voted to approve \$7,890 to hire 2 tutors to run an after-school tutoring program. We discussed paying current teachers to coordinate the program but noted that they could use high school honors students and other volunteers to do some of the actual tutoring. We also discuss that while some of this tutoring will be in-person at the school, some tutoring could be done via Zoom to help those who are quarantined or who ride the bus and can't stay after school.

The remainder of the money (\$912) will remain in goal #5 for Social and Emotional Learning.

Other Concerns

- We discussed the new grading structure being implemented by the English department. Talked about how this is the direction education is moving.
- We discuss the Canvas app and how parents can create their own account.
- We discussed the math department trying a new system where they present lectures online as homework, and use in-class time to do the assignment so the teacher can answer questions. This system doesn't work well if the student doesn't have a basic grasp of the information being presented.

Covid Update

4 current cases—none contracted at school.

6 individuals currently quarantined at home.

It will be impossible to social distance as well as we have when we transition to the 4-day week at the beginning of second semester.

27 students are transferring to Davis Connect (some of them in the blended program). 8-12 students are coming back to SJHS.

Future Community Council Dates

Second Wednesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. in the school library.

Upcoming meetings: November 11
 January 13

February 10
March 10 (8:00-12 noon)
April 14
May 12

Council Photo for Website

The Council voted not to take a photo for the website.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Topics for Next Meeting

Report on progress toward hiring a new mentor and implementing the after-school tutoring program.

English department presentation about the new grading system.

Math department presentation about watching lectures as homework and doing homework in class.

Covid update.

Adjourn

The next Community Council meeting will be held Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 4:00 p.m. in the school library.