

Minutes for Uintah SCC Meeting

02.20.2020

Attendance: Bruce Simpson, Jacob Skog, Melissa Ford, Amanda Funai, Ellen Schwede, Jennifer Foth, Amy Taylor, Caroline Moreno, Carol Theuer

Welcome and Introductions

Approve January 9, 2020 minutes

Jacob moves to approve the minutes, Ellen seconds. All vote in favor.

SCC Chair Opening

Erika got a job at UVU that will prevent her from continuing as Chair. Caroline is Vice Chair and serving as Acting Chair. Jacob expresses interest in serving as Chair. Amy moves to nominate Jacob Skog; Jennifer seconds. All vote in favor, motion passes.

Principal's Report

a. Trustlands

Bruce brought printouts of current plan and accompanying budget numbers. The plan was to be 90% in passing the RISE, focusing on hands-on science (continuing), and several Paras delivering Tier-2 instruction. We are about halfway through the budget; correct for this time of year. Some supplies money still there; Bruce encouraging teachers to look at the new science core to anticipate next year's needs. Melissa asks about why an instructional para was not hired in the Student Success account. Bruce answers that one contributing factor was the lack of a computer teacher for a time, but also simply where the paras were allocated in the budget. He is speaking with the budget director about this. We have quite a few good paras, which can be challenging, so we are lucky in this respect. Carol mentions there was discussion of putting together a Wishlist to come out of the Fundraising item in the budget to cover next year's science core. An electronic sign was considered; they tend to be expensive. Jennifer can get a ballpark number to understand what that expense might look like.

b. 2nd Semester SMART Goals

Bruce distributes a printed report. The faculty discussed the goals. The 1st was with the TSSA money to put away half of a special ed teacher. This is partially achieved because the test has not yet been taken. One other goal was to improve science RICE goals, in part through development. The measure was 4 hours of PD: this was delivered. Last goal was to hold a community fall festival: goal was met. Semester Two goals: faculty tweaked the process a bit to have measurable, achievable, strategic, timely, actionable, and realistic/relevant goals. First is

schoolwide academic achievement goal: maintain 80% proficiency in all testing by the end of the school year. Schoolwide Gap goal: teachers will address achievement gap in math by holding tier-2 interventions twice a week for at least 15 minutes through the end of the year. Math is one of the lower areas, so focusing on tier-2 is an avenue to address that. Final goal is culture and climate goal: 100% of staff and faculty will implement at 3 Tier 1 PBIS (positive behavior and intervention systems) schoolwide strategies. This is an area where students are struggling, upper grades in particular. This is affecting climate at the school. There is some bullying. Bruce met with Tina Hatch and Brian Conley to address this. Staff was pretty unanimous on this. How can we be better at praising positive behavior instead of just catching errors. Staff will have some PD on this (Tier 1 means it's for everyone) to see how everyone can be on the same page, and have guidelines to share with parents and students, so the community understands what is happening, and help improve the climate at the school. Caroline asks if it's worse now? Carol thinks that it is. Jennifer asks, behavior or positive reinforcement? Carols says a bit of both. We haven't perhaps been ideal at keeping up with PBIS strategies, especially during lots of staff changes, and continuing training is needed. Bruce mentions several factors contribute. Faculty/staff discussed areas that are under their control. One growing issue in upper grades is bullying, often older kids bullying younger, but also peers. Also a lack of respect for authority is impacting relationships. The counselor is talking about this with kids. Bruce says we need to enlist the community (parents) with help on this. Bruce is contacting people and preparing resources to organize a Parent Night. Ellen says PTA is also interested in doing this and has talked to Nicole Butalph about it. We need to acknowledge what is happening and discuss what staff is doing, but also give parents the information and bring in School Resource Officers to use their expertise as well. Perhaps someone from the health department; Caroline can help with that angle. A frank and open discussion is needed. The idea is an inoculation: this can be an education for inoculation, so we all have the same understanding. Some 5th graders are discussing pornography at school. They aren't accessing it on school computers as there are filters, but the talk is happening. Parents need to be aware; it's not necessarily the school's role to decide what each child should know about these issues and how they can be impacted by this. Another area is illegal substances that kids shouldn't have. Not necessarily vaping, but it is an issue at Clayton, which is where they go. We need to decide how we are going to respond to this. Caroline asks about SHARP data for the school. Many of the factors are ticking up across the city. Carol reports that teachers are concerned getting the information across, because at times parents do not believe their child could have certain behaviors. Many kids make good choices alone but poorer ones when all together. The children need to know the expectations, and what they expect from their parents. Bruce wants this to be a serious event viewed as a priority. Ellen says the aftercare staff may help with childcare; Carol mentions this has been a legal thorn in the past. Bruce will check on this. Jacob asks about PBIS: is this a standardized thing? He wonders Carol's opinion on it? Carol worked on setting this up; if everyone is using the system it works. The staff is on-board to jump in again. Perhaps half are currently using what's in place. It's a set of techniques and procedures: what to do if this happens. Bruce mentions expectations of, for example, how children behave in the hallway (noise). Children need to understand the rules are there for a reason, in terms of community. When all the adults in the building know the expectations, everyone can work together to implement. For this reason Bruce has invited paras to faculty meeting. Also praise: there is a President's 200 club, and also

other options. How can we reward kids in a sustainable way? There is a lot of quality stuff out there that we can use. Part of this is identifying levels of behavior. This gives kids structure to know where the boundaries are and what consequences they can expect. This helps with anxiety. Jennifer asks about the focus. The parent night will be for 4-6, but PBIS is for everyone. Some of the consequences seem loose, and perhaps focusing even more on younger grades could prevent the issues in later grades? Bullying, pornography, and illicit substance discussions are for older grades, but behavior issues and PBIS is schoolwide. This is a way that system-wide expectations and consequences can help. Schoolwide language and rules create consistency, which is hugely important. Jennifer asks about size of 6th grade classes contributing to this? Bruce says there are lots of factors. One is student engagement; students who are engaged are better contributors to the community. The three pillars are relationships with the student, teacher content knowledge, and correct level of challenge. These can be discussed on grade-level now that there is a computer teacher (facilitates teachers meeting with grade peers). Jennifer asks if accepting more students gets more FTEs? It's very complicated, and doesn't end up affecting staffing for three years.

[end of Principal report]

- Can't have kids without adult supervision at the Stem Fest.
- We don't do overnight field trips, so no relevant discussion needed.

District Updates (Melissa Ford)

- New superintendent search. Dr. Cunningham staying through July 2020.
- Late start taskforce – A new taskforce to discuss starting middle and high schools no earlier than 8:30 am with as small an impact as possible. Start meeting next week.
- Council reviewing registration forms to make them more inclusive, e.g., for 2-household families.
- Legislative session: Primary bill they're watching is equalization. SL School District would lose funds under this bill. It would cap WPU if property taxes go over a certain amount, which ours do. Doesn't take into account student needs and expenses, only tax rates and amounts. Doesn't consider increasing the pie, just how to divvy the existing resources up differently.
- Teachers doing a Walk for Students, Feb. 28, to highlight the need for more school funding. Uintah will get out 15 minutes early that day. After care will start 15 minutes early. Parents and students welcome to join the walk, which will take place from 12-3 at the Rotunda in the Capitol building. Wear red.

PTA (Ellen Schwede)

- Attended a District PTA meeting. Ellen distributed her notes, but will discuss further in a future SCC meeting, specifically on SLEF and Safety Plan.
- ScienceFest went well
- Art Night coming in a few months
- Yearbook deadline is March 1, but we want to get the 3rd grade play in, so we'll delay a bit.
- Several PTA positions will be empty next year. But they always get filled!

SIC (Carol Theurer)

- No report.

Motion to Adjourn: Jennifer made a motion to adjourn, Caroline seconded it, unanimous vote.