

Community Council Meeting Minutes
Viewmont High School – Media Center
October 21, 2020

In attendance: Kathleen Bailey, Ben Horsley, Bridget Lee, Jenny Pitt, Tiffany Rees, Karen Romrell, Michele Strong, Julie Summerhays, Lisa Cook, April Fenn, Johnny Garrison, Malissa Wolfer, Jason Smith, Justin Brooks, Shawn Johnson, Kellen Jones, Chad Bowles, Annette Godfrey, Whitney Keller, Porter Johnson, Jack Brown, Mia Willey, Neola Jones

- Welcome by Jenny Pitt - Jenny Introduced two of the candidates who are running for election for the School Board. They were invited to speak to the council.
- John Robison – Mr. Robison introduced himself. He explained why he is running for school board. He is retired from a life of teaching, coaching and administration in 2014. He was then encouraged to run for the School Board, was elected in 2016 and was made the chairman of the school board. His first act was to consult Student Services (Casey Layton and Brad Christensen) to see what kids really need in life. He talked about his experiences visiting schools and classrooms.
- Next was Emilie Daly. She has students at Viewmont High School, and other Davis Schools. She pointed out that there is only one current school board member that has students in the system right now. She believes that it would be really valuable to have another parent on the board so that they can hear from people with that point of view, as a parent right now. She talked about the importance of the district decision that affected every single family. She commended teachers and the Community Council.
- Jenny Pitt opened the floor to questions for the candidates. Tiffany Rees asked when our district might be competing with the other districts on the Wasatch Front in teacher pay. Mr. Robison explained that, because of the economic differences in the population demographic, it is a hindrance in being able to raise pay. Last year the Board of Education raised taxes to go towards school, which is a very difficult thing to do, but that is one source of revenue that helps toward that end. In the 4 years Mr. Robison has been on the board, teacher’s pay has gone up, on average, \$4,000 per year. But it’s a balance to try to do what’s best for teachers and what is best for the community.
- Jenny Pitt asked whether it’s possible to re-allocate land trust funds in a way that’s never been done before, in order to pay teachers more. Mr. Robison explained that it would be up to community council to think creatively and try to find ways that are acceptable to use the land trust money.
- Karen Romrell asked the candidates their stance on the Hybrid program. Emilie Daly answered that she did not agree with the hybrid program because of the fact that the students, over the course of the proposed hybrid time period, actually met with their teacher so few times. She feels that it’s unacceptable to do that. Mr. Robison stated that he had supported the Hybrid program at first. He explained a little of the process through which the Hybrid program was decided upon, He thought that, if we were in Hybrid, our numbers would remain very low in Covid cases. But as it turns out, our cases are about the same as other high schools that are in school full time, so it does not mean that the hybrid plan is the best plan for the students. He

used some other schools in the state as examples of the numbers being comparative. So right now we will go back to 4 full days, but will remain fluid and will be open to what the state board of education and the governor say in the future.

- Jenny thanked the candidates for their time and excused them.
- Jenny asked council members to introduce themselves. Each person briefly introduced themselves, and Jenny thanked the students for their input on Community Council.
- Jenny explained the way the Trust Land money works, how it is awarded to the schools and how it's allocated by the Community Council within the school. She explained the legislative parameters and requirements for disbursing that money.
- Next was a review of goals by Malissa Wolfer. This year our Community Council is operating under the 4 goals that were set last year at the end of the year. We have 3 student goals for achievement and 1 goal for teachers.
 - The measure of a school by the state is shown by ACT scores. For that reason, we have used the raising of our students' ACT scores as a goal.
 - Our graduation rate is 96%, which is really high, and hard to improve on that percentage. So we have chosen to focus on improving how many students we have going on to get a degree or a trade certificate. We are about 50% in that area, based on the data we have, but we would like to increase it by 2%.
 - The next thing we would like to do is empower our employees to seek Professional Development. Professional Development is only as good as it's students' success, which is tricky because we didn't take the testing in the spring (due to Coronavirus). So we are starting with a baseline. We are also going to improve and individualize the use of technology to improve the digital skills. Kathleen Bailey asked the question of how colleges are not requiring ACT scores as a means of college acceptance for this next few years. She asked whether we should change our goals because of that, but Mrs. Wolfer explained that it is too late to change those goals, because they were submitted last February. The state has not changed plans to give the ACT test statewide to juniors, and so we will continue to use this goal. Tiffany Rees commented that colleges are still asking for the ACT if a student has it. We will be writing new goals in January, and we can make changes at that time, or even this year, within the state's parameters. Johnny Garrison asked about the question of him being a PE teacher, not a core subject teacher, and how he can contribute to the achievement of this goal. Mr. Smith commented that there is a way for ALL teachers to contribute to the students' testing success. He talked about Professional Development, and the occasions that teachers feel that the Professional Development is not useful and tailored to them. So he has given the responsibility of preparing students for tests, and if we look at the whole child, there are ways that everyone can contribute to a part of the whole, such as to teach them to deal with anxiety, or to improve their health; all of those things can affect testing. So each teacher does have a part in testing.
- Malissa Wolfer also explained that one of the things we do as a Community Council is call for teacher grants. We have teachers who requested to attend a conference last summer, for which we allocated \$4,500, and because all travel was cancelled due to Coronavirus, it did not happen. So we have the idea that we change the technology setups for our teachers a little at a time, and for this \$4,500 we can hook up three of our teachers with a convertible tablet laptop/docking

station so that it's portable between home and school. (It's the same setup the district did for our science dept). If we do this it would make it so that about 20% of our teachers would be set up on this type of system. Tiffany Rees made a motion to accept the amendment to reallocate the funds from the cancelled conference to three teacher workstations. Chad Bowles seconded the motion. Jenny Pitt conducted an individual roll call vote of voting members and the motion was passed unanimously.

- Jason was asked to give an update on Covid. There has been confusion on the district dashboard. Mr. Smith explained how the rolling 2-week cycle works, and how the number of cases THAT DAY, who are in isolation. As of our last letter home, we had 6 cases, and he stated that that is how the most current number is arrived at. Jenny Pitt asked what a "soft closure" would look like, and Mr. Smith explained that during soft closure, sports would still happen, but we don't yet know what the daily schedule would look like. April Fenn pointed out that in the Farmington High School closure, the teachers and students at that school are expected to keep the same schedule. Emilie Daly asked about the combination of A/B days, and Mr. Smith said that we would follow whatever schedule we are currently on, whether is it hybrid or 4-day.
- Mr. Smith thanked the council for the invaluable work they have done in the last 4 years to make it so that we have the number of devices in our school. He said that it would not have been possible to handle the pandemic without the ability to give each student a laptop. He said that the council has been wonderful in helping to make that possible.
- In closing, Mr. Smith encouraged members and all parents to please contact the school with questions or concerns, so that they can have the full story.
- Karen Romrell asked about the current problems with our Attendance system, and Mr. Smith explained that the system does have problems, and we are told by the district that the fix is being worked on. Karen also asked about Attendance ongoing, how flexible teachers are going to be as we go into the new fuller schedule. April Fenn commented that teachers are going to be incredibly flexible and do not want students to be stressing about that. Mr. Smith emphasized that we do not want to stress the students out. Mrs. Wolfer also commented that it is a lucky circumstance that we have gone to Standards Based Grading.
- Kathleen Bailey asked for a preview of the year, as far as the funding allocation process. Mr. Smith commented that Jenny had proposed that department heads would be interviewed to find departmental needs, and he said that in the past few years, it has been a very successful and positive practice. As far as our current goals, he says that we will have to be flexible on them this year, we just don't know where the year will lead us. The difference in the importance of an ACT test will make a big difference in how we approach that goal. We will assess that as the year goes on.
- Jenny outlined that we meet on the third Wednesday of the month throughout the year. In March we set our goals for the next year. She congratulated the students on their flexibility in coming up with new ideas for activities, and that as a council, we will need to have new ideas. She challenged the members to think about it and come up with some different ideas. Mr. Smith stated that, as he tells our faculty, "there is no dumb idea." She invited the council to contribute to the agenda if they have an idea, as we are bound to discuss only agenda items that have been posted.
- Tiffany Rees asked about the number of students who are absent due to quarantine or covid... Our number as of yesterday is 59 (down from 66 last week).

- Our next meeting will be on November 1, and we will most likely be meeting in the media center most of this year.
- Tiffany Rees motioned that we adjourn the meeting and Jenny Pitt seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.