

**Syracuse Junior High School**  
Community Council Meeting  
Library, 4:00 p.m.  
9 December 2020

**Welcome and Introductions**

Attendance: Betsy Werrett, Vicki Hassard, Kenneth Hellewell, Andrea Smith, Kelly Zalit, Todd Bridges, Michele Arigot, Shelly Thorne, Melanie McManus, Travis Warnick.

**Minutes**

Minutes were approved by the Council.

**District and State Training**

Travis Warnick reported that everyone has completed the required online training.

**Mentoring and Tutoring Update**

Our new mentor was hired and has started working.

After-school tutoring started yesterday (Tuesday, December 8). It will be offered Monday-Thursday for 30 minutes after school. We have 2 teachers each day who will stay after to provide the tutoring. It has been a slow start, but we needed to get everything in place before we started advertising and encouraging students to attend. We want to get it up and running before the holiday break. We feel like many students will want to use it after the holiday to improve their grade at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> term.

**Covid Update**

There have been 8 recent Covid cases (6 were contracted over the Thanksgiving break and were never in the building).

As of today there are only 2 current cases. Both students. No staff.

The district just approved the revised CDC guidelines that will reduce quarantine time for exposed students to 10 days instead of 14.

The district also revised the guidelines for school closures. Instead of 15 students triggering a possible closure, that number will now be based on a percentage of the student body. If a school reaches this percentage:

Day 1 The school closes for a deep clean.

Day 2-3 They will test everyone. If 80% of the students and staff are not sick the school can remain open.

Day 4 Those who are not sick will resume school.

Mental health issues have increased as a result of Covid. The inconsistency of being in and out of school has been brutal, especially for those who have anxiety.

The choir has designed a good plan to allow the students to perform their concert and still social distance. That concert is this week. It is important that students have an opportunity to participate in “normal” activities like concerts and games at this time.

### **Standards-Based Grading**

Standards-based grading focuses on what the student is learning instead of just what they are turning in or doing to get a good grade.

It is a big mind shift. The English department is leading the way but this is the future of education and we need to get everyone on the same track.

We need to put tool in place to help predict results and let parents know how their student is doing.

One of the benefits of standard-based grading is the student gets multiple attempts to learn something difficult. Not grasping the concept at the beginning of the year doesn't equate to failure or a poor grade so long as they keep working at it and eventually master the concept. It also allows the students to choose how they want to show what they know.

### **Other Topics**

Travis Warnick would like to revamp study hall next year.

650 students (about 1/3 of the student body) take study hall as a class period. Often it's not a productive use of school time. We discussed that is needed for students with difficult schedules (advanced math, AP classes) and also for struggling students, but we would like to make it more functional.

The district is going to be encouraging simultaneous teaching on teams. Classes will be broadcast for those who have to stay at home.

Although the situation has been difficult this year, there has been incredible learning (especially in math) happening at the school. Teachers have needed to be flexible on due dates, but the students are earning their grades and learning a lot.

We need to find out the date we need to finalize the school improvement plan.

### **Future Community Council Dates**

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

Upcoming meetings:     January 13—Update on goal progress.  
                                  February 10—School improvement goals completed.  
                                  March 10 (8:00-12 noon)—Present Trustland requests.  
                                  April 14—Finalize school improvement plan and goals.  
                                  May 12—Celebration of the work.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **Topics for Next Meeting**

Report on how the Trustland money has been spent.

Update on goal progress.

Covid update.

### **Adjourn**

The next Community Council meeting will be held Wednesday, January 13, 2020, 4:00 p.m. in the school library.