

# Syracuse Junior High School

Community Council Meeting

Library, 4:00 p.m.

13 January 2021

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Attendance: Wendy Remley, Betsy Werrett, Vicki Hassard, Kenneth Hellewell, Andrea Smith, Kelly Zalit, Todd Bridges, Michele Arigot, Dawnelle Call, Melanie McManus, Travis Warnick.

Visiting: Jessica Constant

## **Minutes**

Minutes were approved by the Council.

## **Trustland Report and Review**

Michele Arigot:

- Trustland money is funding 2 productivity periods for credit recovery. 10 students are taking advantage of this and more will need it second semester.
- We are funding 3 student mentors, one for each grade.
- We can't host Reality Town this year because of Covid. Instead this money is being used for SEL (Social Emotional Learning) through the "Move This World" program. New lessons are introduced M/W and repeated on T/Th. There is a parent component that she is looking into.

Jessica Constant:

- The after school program has been up and running for two weeks now. She would love to see more students take advantage of it and increased participation is the goal for second semester.
- Robotics: 9 teams with 34 students. Two teams have qualified for state so far. SJH is hosting most of the tournaments this year.
- STEM: trustland money has purchased a classroom set of new microscopes for biology. \$4,500 was spent for GIZMOS (virtual science labs). This has been super helpful during Covid.

Travis Warnick:

- Math tutoring is going well—it is being used consistently. In some classes students must attend a tutoring session before they can retake a math test. The current pass rate for math is 70%--Covid has hit us hard.
- Katie Moss, English department chair, is transferring to a different school to be with her son.

- The music funds have been used for instrument repairs, enough music stands for each student, and air purifiers for the music rooms.

### **Goal Report**

Final goal reports will come after the grades come in next week.

- Credit deficiency and standard based grading—on target.
- Math pass rates at 70% now—will likely improve by the end of term.
- We have no baseline for RISE because the students didn't take it last year. That testing is upcoming.
- Earth System GPA or 3.13- SBG. Will officially pull next week. Looks like we are on target.
- We've seen a marked improvement in student behavior (especially in SPED) with the "Move This World" program. They did a pre-survey and will do a post-survey to gage student and teacher response to the program. Many students are dealing with anxiety issues this year! Instead of Seahawk Time, the first period of the day is 15 minutes longer and allows the teachers to teach "Move This World." Most teachers are on board with only a few that aren't doing it. The program started in November.

### **Covid Update**

4 cases today—2 students and 2 staff

CDC has changed their rules and now healthy students do not have to quarantine if the exposure was mask-to-mask. The quarantine period for sick individuals has been reduced to 10 days.

Students are doing great at wearing masks! The school has distributed 3,000 masks this year (in addition to the masks given to each student at the beginning of school). The district pays for this.

Vaccination schedule is rolling out in the next three weeks for staff members (unless you've had Covid in the last 90 days—then your aren't eligible right now). The Fridays-off schedule has been invaluable this year, allowing teachers time to work with students who are struggling.

### **Standards-Based Grading**

The goal is to get the students ready for high school. We meet monthly with SHS to see what they need.

We need to believe that learning is on a growth mindset. Students may not know something the first time they learn it.

The push next year is to be uniform. The definition of proficient needs to be consistent between classrooms.

Standards-based grading is a district-wide initiative.

### **Other Topics**

Next year we are going to have a 50-minute mentor period once a week.

Study hall will be changing—it will be content specific (a math study hall or study hall for an AP class).

Concern about the flipped math schedule (watch math instruction at home and do homework at school where the student has access to teacher help). Were the students asking questions in class and getting the help they need to understand the subject? It appears to be working the way it should when the classroom has been under observation.

### **Future Community Council Dates**

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

Upcoming meetings:      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 school improvement goals.

Scheduling for next year.

Standard-based grading.

Start to formulate next year's goals.

Covid update.

### **Adjourn**

The next Community Council meeting will be held Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 4:00 p.m. in the school library.