

# Syracuse Junior High School

Community Council Meeting

Library, 4:00 p.m.

14 April 2021

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Attendance: Wendy Remley, Vicki Hassard, Kenneth Hellewell, Andrea Smith, Kelly Zalit, Dawnelle Call, Shelly Thorne, Travis Warnick.

## **Minutes**

Minutes were approved by the Council.

## **Budget**

We need to revamp the budget a bit.

We anticipated getting \$144,000 in CARES money (\$100 per student) but only got \$48,500 this year. We were given \$50 for each student and the other \$50 was weighted based on need (special ed, ESL, low income, etc.) We qualified for \$97,000, but that money is to be spread over two years, thus \$48,500 this year.

We need to use more Trustland and TSSA money to fund productivity (which we hoped could be funded by CARES money.)

We initially budgeted \$72,000 to create the new STEM lab but if we reduce that amount to \$36,000 we can fund the rest of the STEM lab with grant money. This frees up money to fund productivity.

We reviewed the proposed budget changes and voted to accept the new budget.

Terrie Nielson, the new head secretary, will track budget expenditures this next year.

## **School Improvement Plan**

We reviewed the draft of the 2022 School Improvement Plan that Travis Warnick will present to the district.

Growth—we expect 120+ new homes within the school boundaries this next year. We anticipate 1,400+ students at SJHS next year.

We have change Study Hall to Study Skills and reduced the number of sections.

We did not meet many of our goals last year, primarily because of COVID. In some cases we didn't even test students and therefore it was impossible to meet goals.

The 9<sup>th</sup>-grade math failure rate is a big concern. The failure rate has gone down significantly, but it is still too high. We are working closely with Syracuse High to send them students who are prepared. We have two new 9<sup>th</sup>-grade math teachers coming on board next year. We are striving to make our math program fun for the students. Math may be hard but it doesn't need to be miserable and hard!

School Improvement Plan Goals for next year:

1. Global Improvement: Improve global GPA in the 4 core areas by an increase of 0.2 over third term grades from 2021.
2. Literacy Rates: All students will increase their reading literacy rate by at least one grade level. We discussed the wording of this goal and decided that "all" might be setting us up for failure in this area. We will strive to reach ALL students but will change the wording to reflect an average increase.
3. Culture of Excellence: measured by enrollment in fine arts courses. We discussed moving the funding for an accompanist to this goal instead of the literacy goal.
4. STEM: Increase number of students enrolled in STEM/CTE courses.
5. SEL: "Move This World." This goal is not funded by Trustland money.

We motioned and voted to accept the School Improvement Plan draft. (Note: we will vote to accept the finalized School Improvement Plan after the final wording is in place and the district has reviewed it.)

### **Covid Update**

We are down to 1 case. Continuing wearing masks has not been an issue at the school.

### **Other Topics**

There will be school on Fridays next year. The district is considering a global (meaning all schools) late start or early out day each week.

### **Future Community Council Dates**

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

Upcoming meetings:      May 12—Celebration of the work.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Topics for Next Meeting**

Approve the finalized School Improvement Plan.

**Adjourn**

The next Community Council meeting will be held Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 4:00 p.m. in the school library.