School Community Council

Meeting Agenda
December 14, 2022 – 5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting – Zoom

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83620548410?pwd=dE5JTVRHYjFibFhndG11QzNBVXUrQT09

Meeting ID: 836 2054 8410
Passcode: 244026

Attendance
- April Reynolds - Principal
- Angela Oliver
- Dianne Duncan – Special Education Teacher
- Emily Booth
- Jennifer Cologna – Kindergarten Teacher
- Jennifer Rosenthal
- Jill Stanford
- Joey McNamee
- Kathrine Hansen
- Kimberly Venable
- Leah Jaramillo
- Nicole Suchey - AP
- Sam Quantz
- Stacey Earle

Welcome

Introductions (In the Chat)

Approve Last Meeting Minutes – Angela moves to approve, Jennifer Rosenthal approves

Safe Technology and Digital Citizenship – Sam Quantz
- Requirement of SCC this year.
- Sam shared a document from State Board of Education sent to all school. Meant to be a guide for conversation.
- Premise of the law that schools and SCCs have an annual discussion about technology.
- Funding approved for a 1 to 1 student to device ratio.
• District schools and libraries must use Content Keeper to filter and monitors all traffic, including devices taken home, for inappropriate content.
• Content is blocked based on category. Examples – News, Technology, Gambling. Uncategorized sites are automatically blocked.
• Staff members can request a site be unblocked through the IT department.
• Different settings for different schools and grade levels. Elementary schools have most strict controls.
• YouTube is generally blocked for students but not faculty. Faculty can share videos through their account or use MyVR Spot to share. Google Images is not blocked but safe search is enabled.
• Mobile device management systems are used to enforce policies on devices. Some schools use screen monitoring systems but there is no district license
• Annual training is provided by the librarian. Common Sense Media curriculum is being taught. Comprehensive internet safety and digital citizenship.
• Principals receive a weekly report of inappropriate content that has been accessed by students.
• IT staff receives a report of inappropriate content accessed by staff. Handled by HR.
• Utah Education Technology Network pays the licensing cost of Content Keeper. Cost effective and flexible. Could be changed but it would require a big effort.
• The device chosen for the 1:1 program is a small, 11 inch, Microsoft laptop. Chosen because of flexibility. Main applications that schools use are Lexia, Canvas, Great Minds, iReady, DreamBox etc...
• April discussed supervision practices at Emerson:
  o When kids are on devices there is active adult supervision.
  o Used dividers to block neighbor’s screens during testing.
  o When suspicious searches are found - look at context of each search, bring kids and parents in to talk about it and sometimes suspend internet access. Increasing kid’s awareness makes a big difference.
• Jill asks, Do the teachers like having the devices in the classroom?
  Jen Cologna says
  o Kindergarten is not 1:1 yet and she is hesitant. They share 6 iPads and go to computer lab.
  o Lots of time spent learning how to log in. Will require a new level of management.
  o Where is store them is a challenge.
• April says
  o 1:1 gives teacher’s flexibility. Example, some kids can do assessments while others are working.
  o Upper grades will use them for writing.
  o If we need to go to remote learning, every kid will have a device to bring home.
  o Helps prepare kids for middle school. Provides more instructional tools. They are not on computers all day.
• Kimberly asks, What % of testing is taking place electronically vs physically with paper and pencil?
  o All tests are available online via illuminate
  o In lower grades, some kids use paper and pencil and the answers are entered online.
• All end of year testing is done on the computer.
  • 3, 4, 5 and 6 grades do Rise assessments on the computer.
• Katherine asks if proper typing technique is being taught and how?
  • Happens in computer rotation and in the classroom.
  • 5th grade keyboarding assessment. Keyboarding skills are emphasized starting in 3rd grade.

Reports

• Principal’s Report (April)
  • Raised over $4100 in the virtual food drive. Was a huge success. A little higher than last year.
  • 5th grade did their Junior Achievement project. The internet went down, and they had to adjust so it was a great learning experience.
  • 1st quarter award recognition was done virtually. Looking at moving in person.
  • Ballet for Aliens play was put on for 4th, 5th and 6th graders, in person. First assembly like that.
  • Snowball gifts went well. Food bag donations from Usana. School community is great.

• SIC Report (Jennifer Colona)
  • Will send a SIC representative each month.
  • Start December meeting by reviewing the previous month’s minutes.
  • One item is working on creating a subcommittee to address watches and cell phone policy. Faculty members and teachers work together to limit distractions and find a happy medium.
  • Discussed how to help kids with chronic absences and tardies.
  • Recess duty coverage - when paras are not available, how to communicate more efficiently? Should teacher’s step in?
  • Faculty room needed cleaning, working on that. Faculty bathroom needed a new toilet seat and someone replaced it.
  • Got directions from Linda on how to print to office work room printer.
  • SIC looked and three district calendar options recommends option 1. Option 1 is most like the current calendar. Option 2 created a weeklong fall break which is hard for parents. Disruptive for younger and special education students while establishing routines. Students would not have access to meals that week. Option 3, early start date for teachers. Makes for hot recesses and short summer break.
  • Discussed whether rotations could be taken away from students as a consequence? Absolutely not. That is instructional time and can not be taken away. Can be used as a time to make up assessments or assignments but cannot be taken away punitively.
  • Jill asks about recess coverage, is parent coverage the main strategy when short staffed? Jennifer says, Kindergarten does their own thing with parents, teacher and paras. Older grades sometimes end up without enough coverage and they need to figure out how to communicate efficiently.
April says that a lot of staff has been out sick. More frequently than in previous years.

- Joey asks what is considered a chronic absence?
  Jenn says, chronic absences are more than 10, particular in large clumps of time. Please keep kids home when they are sick. There is a difference between a 5-minute tardy and being several hours late. Trying to look at it through the lens of how much instruction they are missing. If kids miss blocks of time, they have trouble catching up. It’s almost impossible to make up large blocks of missed time.
  April says it’s been challenging with COVID because kids are staying home with illnesses. Attitude to attendance has really shifted after remote learning. Used be able to send warning letters and provide intervention but legislature allows parents to excuse children from school for any reason. There are also social implications and impacts on the classroom community. They can send letters home for five “unexcused” absences, but some parents are excusing all absences.
  Kimberly says that Juvenile Court considers truancy to be 5 days missed but there has been leniency in the last few years. Could schools raise this issue with the District?
  April is trying to figure out how the school can address it, so teachers don’t have to. She suggests reaching out to your legislator.

- Kimberly asks what the issues are with phones and watches?
  Jen says there is an issue in upper grades with devices being used during recess. Board policy is that they should not be used during the school day. Parents are texting kids of watches during the day and kids are leaving class to use devices. Need to work together to find appropriate ways to manage devices.
  Katherine asks if devices can be put in a box or cabinet at the beginning of the day and Jennifer feels this isn’t a solution because of liability and the effort to manage it.
  Dianne has had issues with watches but the parents were able to set controls that were helpful.
  April says that students and parents can communicate through the office. After school the devices are appropriate. She will reach out to for parent participation on the committee.

- PTA Report (April)
  - PTA will help refill emergency backpacks with treats. Backpacks include roster, health care plan and medication.
  - Talked about restaurant fundraiser. Rico wants to do a Christmas tamale sale.
  - PTA is providing a treat and celebration for faculty.
  - Stem fair is in May and starting some planning for that.

School Board Representative Updates

School Calendar Options
Leah asks, what is motivating the change and given that fall is hot in SLC, why are we not looking at starting later, like after Labor Day, as opposed to moving it earlier?
April says that the district reviews the calendar every three years. She doesn’t know why they don’t propose starting school later. Heat seems like a problem. There is a calendar committee.

Lindsay votes for Option 3. She is worried about bigger fall break and a lot of 5-day weeks in Spring. She like the idea of being finished in the middle of May because students get less engaged and leave for vacation early.

Katherine says parents in Wasatch School District tell her that they do not like having a long fall break. A lot of younger kids have a hard time with it. It is excruciating. She votes for Option 1.

Jill asks, there are no learn at home days on the calendar. Does that mean that there won’t be any?
April says instead of LAH days, they have built in teacher learning days. Everyone agrees that they were difficult.

April says that an issue with Option 3 is that teacher’s like having time after the testing window and before the end of school. Option 3 makes it too tight.

Joey loves the stay home day after Halloween. Teachers liked it too.

Stacy supports Option 1.

Emily asks if there is a way to offer feedback to the committee about a later start?
April says to email HR or reach out to your board member. She doesn’t know how you get on the committee.

Joey asks which calendar aligns the best with summer camps? She votes for Option 1. Emily thinks that summer camps set their schedule based on the school calendar.

Jill votes Option 1 since the teachers prefer that one.
SCC votes for Option 1, with a note about considering a later start date. April feels like the teachers have been very thoughtful in their recommendations.

Paraprofessional Gifts – Joey has a few donations trickling in. Will discuss details in January.

Next meeting January 11, 2023 – 5:30 PM