MINUTES

SCC Meeting
December 12, 2022
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting conducted by: Geordie McLeod

Attendees: Steven Schwimmer, Curtis and Melody Linton, Steve Schwimmer, Caroline Ingraham, Matt Smith, Rachel Fletcher, Tessa Stewart, Geordie McLeod, Erika Beccera

Location: SLCSE-Bryant Middle School Media Center
40 South 800 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Welcome and Approve November Minutes: Geordie welcomed the council, reviewed norms, and asked for approval of minutes. Tessa made a motion and Mr. Smith seconded. Unanimous approval

School Compact Approval: Mr. Smith updated contract to include suggestions on diversity and inclusivity. Those updates are included in the In the School section. Third bullet. Mr. Smith reminded group that he wants participation in field trips, overnight trips and all school activities/opportunities to be reflective of diversity of student body. Another bullet was added to In the Classroom section, second bullet. The committee agreed that the Contract looks good. Geordie asked to whom this packet goes? Mr. Smith said it is included in the student beginning of year packet, as well as on the website.

Mr. Smith asked for approval of the Contract. Geordie seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Rules of Order and Procedure Approval: Mr. Smith had previously emailed the committee a link to the document. The committee briefly reviewed the rules and procedures. Mr. Smith reminded the committee that we will follow the rules and procedures, but would also like flexibility at meetings for open discussions and honest feedback. Geordie motioned to approve, and Mr. Linton seconded. Unanimous approval.

Land Trust Discussion:
Mr. Smith reviewed

Five years ago Dr. Stringham and Ms. Crim came to Bryant from SLCSE to model the teaming environment among teachers. Bryant started following that format with Math and Science the first year. And then added ELA and Social Studies in the following year.

With a decrease in enrollment and decrease in FTE school needed to cut extra time from ELA/SS this. Mr. Smith would like to use Land Trust funding to give that time back.

Mr. Smith presented information on RISE data and correlation of success between test scores and teaming model. Art teacher went on overnight trip to the spiral jetty with about 30 students. The students were able to dig up clay/mud for ceramics in art. Bryant was the only middle school in the
Teams meet every other week and discuss their group of students and who may need extra help, intervention and what is the follow up. This year a big focus in on multi language learners. Mr. Smith shared that the school has gone through a process to improve teacher clarity. Every few months observers come and offer feedback. Last week, there was a team visit. The visiting members were given the schedule of who the target students were. They were looking for the learning objective…did teachers talk about objective and follow up with questions. One of the students responded…”it’s written right there”. As observers walked out the student and friends were discussing the objective and what they learned.

Reimagine Education…Bryant applied to be part of this program with Bennion and SLCSE High. Schools were tasked with gathering data and finding what’s missing in efforts to improve student learning. Students with disabilities, varying diversity. A survey of over 500 families responded. Goal was to challenge students and see improvement. School wanted to provide experiences that students could tie to what they are learning in the classroom. For example, students who are refugees and have never experienced what they see here. Versus students who come from affluent families. School observed many students have not left their neighborhood. How does Bryant bring diverse groups together to share same experience. Like camping trips, visit to Great Salt Lake, talking with visiting legislators. For 6 months school gathered data on how to provide these experiences and what were results, combined with teaming model…tie the provided experience to multiple subjects. School applied for funding to pay teachers for extra planning time, entrance fees, other costs for experiential learning. Every student at all three schools and least one experiential trip in the first month of 22-23 school year. Report of student well-being improved after experiences. Students were asked if experiential learning benefited them as learners in various categories. Overwhelmingly, responses were somewhat to completely agree. With these results, Bryant presented information to United Way and the schools were granted funding again this year. Experiences included visits to the Salt Lake and Air Quality.

Geordie…experiential learning would not work without teaming. Students would miss some classes but not others, would not have cross curriculum work without teaming.

Curtis…asked if there could be a baseline student survey of “regular” class vs experiential learning, perhaps data would further show how beneficial the teaming model and experiential learning is.

Mr. Schwimmer…when a teacher is out, the other three teachers can help. Mr. Smith confirmed that when a teacher is out, the other teaming teachers have the flexibility to rearrange the block of classes when a sub was not available.

Mr. Smith stated that we do not need to make decisions at this time. But wanted to give the background that Land Trust can fill gap from loss of FTE, and keep teaming model available. Bryant gets only 14 FTE from the district, but has 27 teachers. (FTE does not cover faculty at any district school.) Increased enrollment would help fund more staff. Different budgets, such as Title I, cover the gap. But it is difficult to keep all teachers funded.

Geordie was ideal number of enrollment. Mr. Smith…480 students, and we are currently at 400.

**Safe Technology and Digital Citizenship:** Mr. Smith…SCC does not need to approve. Just review and discuss any questions. The document addresses how technology can/should be used at schools. One new item is that Admins get real time reports on all searches that are flagged. Mr. Smith gets between 15-20 reports a day. Algorithm does not distinguish between the word “die” used in a search for when an historical figured died, versus a more concerning search of the word. Makes it difficult on administrator. This a new function, just a few weeks in process, discussions are happening to try and address the issue.

Document addresses what devices are being used. School currently does not have enough laptops for 1:1, but that will change soon. There will be enough laptops for every student, plus. Challenge now is wifi at home. At this point, laptops will not be going home with students. Bryant is working on options to address that challenge. School will invest in new carts so every teacher has access to a
Question…does any other school have enough laptops for 1:1 and that students can take home. Understanding is that Clayton does. They have additional funding to make that possible.

Geordie raised concerns with laptops. Kids are on them all the time. Added burden for teachers to have to monitor laptop use. Discussion highlighted positives of laptops/technology, like canvas, balanced with challenges. Mr. Schwimmer mentioned that Canvas does not work well for music classes. Georgie feels there is a healthy balance at SLCSE high school. Mr. Smith hopes for that balance at Bryant as well.

Last bullet of document…how can parents/guardians support. Mr. Smith, there is a big lack of discussion in homes about appropriate use of technology. So many of behavior situations and learning complications are related to online use and social media. Trying to police that realm of students’ life has been exhausting and time consuming and soul sucking.

Geordie…what would like parents to be doing. Mr. Smith…I would like parents to check their kids phone and know what their child is doing on social media. It has made a difference at the school that cell phones are not allowed.

Mr. Schwimmer…we used to have an evening meeting where parents were invited to learn more about parental control on social media/technology. Mr. Smith reported that the meetings were not well attended.

Curtis mentioned there’s also no solution for parents. The challenge is just as hard at home as at school. Our kids today are in a completely different world and it happened so quickly.

Melody stated that she loves how Bryant sees each student as an individual and tries to meet their needs.

Dr. Fletcher…maybe meeting/session needs to be more of a parent support group. Melody, we need a pod of friends that can help and support without judgement.

Curtis circled back to benefit of teaming and value of teachers knowing students and students trusting teachers.

Dr. Fletcher, it would be nice to build relationship with more of the students who are not struggling. But, time and resources are stretched so thin.

Admin Update: RULER Update: Geordie noted that we are over time limit. We will move RULER discussion to next meeting.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:16.