

CDJH Community Council Meeting, January 4, 2023, 4:35pm

Those in attendance: Tawna Smith (principal), Brandt Shaw (assistant principal), Michelle Downard (teacher), Bryan Morris (parent), Shellie Ashby (parent), Jennifer Perry (parent), Debbie Mulholland (parent), Renae Curtis (PTA representative), Megan Morris (non CC parent), Stephanie Stewart (non CC teacher).
Ismar Vallecillos (parent- arrived at 5:18pm)

Not in attendance: Katie Barber (teacher), Christine Torres (parent)

No approval of October's meeting was done, since they hadn't been sent to council prior to meeting. Approval vote will happen in February's meeting.

School Updates: Mrs. Smith-First Semester ends Jan 13th. Deadlines for all work Jan 6th. Counselors working to get second semester classes balanced. Info to go home on Monday regarding second semester. Dress Code (Hats) is on "To-Do" list, will make up parent survey, and will discuss at next CC meeting.

Budget discussion: a bit of carryover from last year (some staff quit mid-year and left money in budget). Would like to reallocated money. ALEKS and Dreambox were approx. \$12,000 instead of \$4000 budgeted. And IXL charged for 2 years instead of just 1. Should be enough money in carryover to reallocated and cover loss. Approx. \$27,000 in carryover. School fees were drastically reduced this year, so money in budget needs to be shuffled around a bit. Can't vote on it this meeting- it wasn't on agenda. Will add to February's agenda and vote on money reallocation at next meeting.

Academics: ABC activity feedback. Parent's perspective- it was a good motivator. Mrs. Downard said in past CUB E parties at end of term and BBQ at end of year for .5 GPA increase and/or 3.5 GPA. Mrs. Smith said there are a high number of F's, but have decreased. As of December 2nd, 74% had one or more F. By today (Jan 4) down to 54%. Bryan Morris said it was a good motivator for his son. Jennifer Perry said allowing for late work makes it harder for kids. Debbie Mulholland said that different due dates make it hard for the kids.

Class Period Discussion: Mrs. Smith had joint staff meeting with elected teachers. Discussed having 4 classes/day (4x4) instead of five/day (5x5). Majority of teachers in favor of it. Mr. Shaw said 5x5 sounds great on paper, but there are flaws, works better for advanced kids, but harder on remedial kids. Lots of failing grades and overwhelmed students. CDJH scored worst or almost worse than all other jr. highs in district. CDJH growth scores are excellent and teachers are working hard at meeting students where they are and helping them. Chronic absenteeism because many are feeling overwhelmed. Discussion on student time management, use of devices, canvas, work time in class vs. at home, etc. Mrs. Downard said studies done regarding brain function. Writing things down makes it stick in your brain. A keystroke is just a keystroke to your brain. Retention is better with both hemispheres of brain working when writing on paper. 4x4 class would be four 90 minute classes/day instead of five 70 minute classes. Will need to train teachers how to teach for 90 minutes but not give extra homework because of 90 min classes. Mrs. Stewart said lots of class time is lost when make-up tests have to be taken in class, and time would be better spent instructing and helping. Mr. Shaw said going to 4x4 would leave 7th grade with 4 electives (2 per semester), 8th grade with 6 electives (3 per), and 9th grade with 8 electives (4 per). NCAA requires full year of geography. District wants half year geography required with half year as elective for students who want NCAA credit. If go 4x4, AP classes will still be offered. AP Human Geo. and Environmental Science will still have labs. AP Computer no lab. Going 4x4 will help reduce stress for students. Counselor interventions for students with high stress. About 10% of students on home release because of stress. Bryan Morris asked if CC is decides to switch. Mrs. Smith wants CC feedback, will go to district (Dave Tanner), will have discussion and go from there. Most schools are moving back to 4x4 if not already that way. Mr. Shaw said class sizes will increase. Now about 35 students per class, will probably go up

to 38/39 per class. With 4x4, teachers will teach 6 out of 8 classes for their contract. Advisory will still be on Wednesdays if go to 4x4, and will be 20 minutes. Mrs. Downard said that she's been a part of many styles of Advisory. Concern of her and many other teachers is that the best academic intervention for students is that academic teacher, not just advisory teacher. Better for students to be in academic classes longer than advisory class. Good for mental health of students, but not best for academics.

Motion to adjourn, Jennifer, Mrs. Downard seconded, all in favor.

Adjourn 6:10pm. Next meeting – Wednesday February 1st, 4:30pm.