

Park City High School Community Council (CC)

October 26, 2023

Minutes

In attendance:

1. Roger Arbabi – Administrator
2. Samantha Ball – Parent
3. Bill Ciraco - Parent
4. Stephen Fox – Parent (Vice-Chair)
5. Shannon Hase – Administrator
6. Jane Meade - Parent
7. Jenny Pelt - parent
8. Jamie Taylor – Parent
9. Jaelee Watanabe – Parent (Secretary)

Roger called the meeting to order at 2:37pm.

The September meeting minutes were circulated via email as well as by hard copy. **Jamie** made a motion to approve the minutes, **Roger** seconded, and the motion carried.

Roger reported that we have no December meeting scheduled, but we can add one as needed.

Roger shared recently released Targeted Support Instruction (TSI) Data:

- TSSA money pays for a pre-ACT exam for all 9th & 10th graders each year; of this year's 10th & 11th graders, half scored in the top quartile
- Of the current 11th graders who independently took the ACT, they averaged 26
- Of our Multi-Language Learners (MLL)/WIDA, 50% showed growth in English, 75% in math and 62% in science; the WIDA test is a 1-4 scale
 - State recognized this growth as “Exemplary”
- On the Aspire Test, of our 10th grade MLLs, 0% demonstrated “Mastery” in English, math or science
 - PCHS was dinged by State for this
 - Unrealistic expectations by the State
 - Perhaps more important to see improvement than “Mastery” or a specific target
- By comparison, Skyline has a 27% “Mastery” rate, although this school is very affluent and has almost no Hispanic or low-income students

We discussed how some Hispanic students get to the US and into our schools.

Roger reported that the State considers three main categories:

1. Special Education – students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
 2. Free and Reduced Lunches (an economic indicator)
 3. MLL
- Some students are in all three categories
 - 10 current 10th graders
 - 7 current 11th graders
 - 5 current seniors

Roger reported that PCHS is the only school in Utah that is receiving a PLATINUM AWARD.

Roger noted there is a direct correlation between family income [poverty] and brain development.

The CC will potentially have \$236,000 to allocate, and possibly more as funding keeps increasing. The critical question is what can we do to help all students be successful at some level. **Roger** asserts that whatever we do to help struggling students will help ALL students.

Our (CC) goals are:

1. Get the PC School District/Board to pay for Dream Big [going forward]
2. Decide how to spend the money we no longer spend on DB

We will have a more compelling argument for the Board to pick up the tab for DB if we can explain how we intend to spend the released funding. We should look to other successful schools for ideas.

Roger reported that PCHS [via its faculty] is actively working to be a part of the process of writing new State Standards so as to ALIGN them with Aspire, Rise and the ACT.

Roger noted that discipline is a minor issue at PCHS and that we use an intervention system on campus.

Roger indicated that he would like to take DB down to the 3rd grade within the District, switching the focus from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”

Stephen asked if we know how many students are truly performing their best on standardized tests.

- **Roger** supports a marketing campaign to get students to understand how important taking and performing well on standardized tests are for their school.
- **Bill** asked if we could offer “refresher” courses or test support just before tests are given.
- **Roger** reported that we have funds for ACT prep for ANY student who has economic hardship, but we need marketing for this.

- **Stephen** suggested switching our terminology from BRIBE to INCENTIVE and connecting the WHY for students.
- **Bill** suggested beginning the dialogue with 8th and 9th graders about the Path To College.
- **Samantha** suggested faculty mentors for students – teachers from similar backgrounds to the students; **Roger** reported that the 3 newest hires for DB faculty are Latinx, 2 being PCHS grads.

Roger discussed the history of DB and Bright Futures (BF); funding was moved from DB to BF and the “feud” evolved over money. But, now the PC Education Foundation is funding ALL programs. **Roger** suggested that if the District won’t fund DB, we can ask the Ed Foundation to pitch in for DB.

Roger voiced his support for a Tutoring Center on campus, similar to Stevenson High School in Illinois.

Bill reported that he would like to hear directly from students what is preventing/keeping them from participating in DB; **Roger** indicated that we could do this.

Roger challenged the CC to research successful schools and discern the common factor creating/fueling their success.

Roger to create a Google folder for CC members to share files and information; members to send him email address if different than that used for CC.

Stephen suggested creating and disseminating a survey to students asking:

1. Did you TRY your best on the standardized tests?
2. What would motivate you to try your best on standardized tests?

Stephen suggest a CAR as a prize for students as positive behavioral tool/program; this has been done in other districts in Utah.

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 16th at 2:30pm.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.