Minutes
Provo High School Community Council
2009/2010

9 Dec 2009

1. In attendance: Sam Ray, Cynthia Gaddis, Jean McPherron, Dr. Lillian, Russ Ridgeway, Lisa Thomas, Lisa Shepherd , *Lori Rich* (added by Cynthia)

2. Review of the minutes from the last meeting: A copy of the minutes downloaded from google.docs was read aloud. Members of the committee commented on the usefulness and convenience of being able to read and edit minutes on google.docs. Russ Ridgeway, in particular, was able to make edits about when he and Linda Roper became new members of the committee. It was also Mr. Ridgeway's suggestion that we add "action items" to each month's agenda, in which we put who is responsible and the dates for follow-up actions after our meetings. Meeting notes were then approved by unanimous vote.

3. Lori Rich: The difference between SIOP and simply good teaching practice is largely in the language objective, encouraging a targeted achievement in reading, writing, or speaking. Our ESL students often have Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS) but lack Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP). They appear to speak enough English to do the task, but they lack key language abilities required to understand and achieve the objectives. SIOP builds up better teaching practice in many areas.

Teacher observations (both peer and administrative) are occurring, but only infrequently at this point. Administration is starting to visit and do observations as a "trial run" (the results stay with the teacher), but subsequent observations will "count" and go on file as evaluations.

In 2010 the accreditation process begins and a 6-year teacher improvement plan will be put into place. Teachers are "trying on" SIOP as a method. Another teaching improvement innovation encouraged by the district is Professional Learning Communities (PLC) which Sam is implementing by introducing PLC methods into the already functioning department meetings.

4. Sam Ray reminded us that we should all continue to train ourselves on the Community Council, getting on-line to read the website that was given last month.

5. Items from the Council: The council would like to speak with department heads and will invite key heads and others interested to form a panel at the next council meeting.

Russ Ridgeway emphasized the need to determine as a council what our most critical academic needs are in order to properly consider requests for funding next year. He encouraged us to acquire as much information from department heads about their critical academic needs as possible, but cautioned against rubber stamping their funding requests

without serious deliberation within the council. Many would like to see external research-based support for their funding requests.

It was determined that we didn't have enough meeting time to have a separate meeting for this deliberation, but we plan to stay later than normal in January in order to come to a consensus on our funding priorities.

Prior to our visit from department heads Sam Ray will ask them to submit written answers to two questions:

- *What are the most critical academic needs in your department?*
- *Which current programs, interventions, and enrichments do you feel are effective and why?*

These will be entered on an online document before the first week of January and reviewed by council members prior to our next meeting.

Sam passed out a list of Provo High School's interventions and programs for at-risk students and starred those paid for with Trustlands funds. He mentioned that he is attempting to make the link for faculty that the community council funds many key programs and will be a source of significant funding in the future as well as a voice in determining the shape of the new school improvement plan and teacher improvement efforts.

Lori Rich found the excellent proposal request form that Lisa Shepherd sent out last year. It will form the basis for the proposal request letter to be sent out in the new year.

6. Action Items: Lisa Shepherd will write an article for the January parent newsletter on the workings of the council. Lisa Thomas will set up a googledoc for the department heads enter their input. Sam will contact department chairs for English, Math, and Science with an invitation to attend the next meeting, as well as asking all department chairs to give input on their most critical academic needs by December 16th.

The next meeting will be held on January 13th at 2:30 pm in the conference room.

Please put an X after your name to indicate approval.

McPherron	x	Judkins	x	Ridgeway	x	Thomas	x
Shepherd		Roper	x	Ray		Gaddis	x
Theobald		Rich	x	Wing	x	Fodermaier	