

SCC February Minutes

February 17, 2015

- I. Welcome- Julie Hoffman welcomes everyone
 - Julie opens meeting Sinda seconds it
 - Renae Golding Approves the minutes Lillian Shaw seconds it

- II. Presentations
 - Jerri Marshal- Concurrent Enrollment & Distance Learning
 - Would like funds from the council so more students can participate in the Distance Learning (DL) and Concurrent Enrollment (CE) classes.
 - The legislature is looking to increase fees for each credit from \$5-\$15 for DL and \$5-\$10 for CE for those who are not on fee waiver. Fee waiver students will remain at \$5 a credit. She would also like funds to purchase college books for the DL classes. Currently she tries to use part of her budget to purchase 1 or 2 to have available in her class. The bulk of her money will go towards application fees and tuition but any extra will be used for books. CE students that can't afford it because of the fees are about 50-60 students. These are only the students that have approached her therefore she believes this is a conservative number.
 - To identify the students with the most need there would be an application for the funds and she would also use the school fee waiver application. It would not be limited to fee waiver students.
 - She would like to also use part of the money for Chromebooks to use during the DL classes.
 - FMP- Todd Smith & Natalie Graves
 - Testimonial from Isaac Chock, second year peer mentor: He says the program was a defining moment in his high school career. Teaching was a lot harder than he thought but the rewards outweigh the work. He has seen the freshmen be more positive and concerned about others. He hopes the program continues because it has truly changed his life.
 - Natalie has seen how important this is for academic and social growth while they are transitioning into high school. She went over the data she gathered through survey questions. Overall the majority of the students felt that the program has helped. About 70% were surveyed.
 - Todd explained how they chose lessons based on the most important topics from last year's survey. This year they did two days of lesson with two days of intervention. Mentors do most of the teaching and preparing for lessons.
 - Questions from council:
 - § Was it more successful in the morning as opposed to the day? They both have their pros and cons. Todd would prefer it during the day but the expense is too high. It was nice to have more time

during the day (Isaac). More freshmen take advantage of the intervention time because they are already here.

§ What is the difference in expense? Karen Brown explains that during the day it cost about \$6000 and \$2000 in the morning per teacher x 16 teachers.

§ Can you do a social/emotional survey at the beginning so we can track it at the end? It's a good idea.

§ Can you have them be accountable for going to intervention the whole year? They can try to do something like that where the FMP teacher keeps track of them the whole year. They would have a slip of paper to turn in showing where they went during intervention with the teacher's signature.

§ Has intervention attendance continued? They have seen a drop off.

§ What if the class was offered 4 days and the students chose the 2 days they wanted to come? It would pose problems with lesson plans and continuity. It would also affect the social interactions of the class.

English Department Chair- Jim Davis & Al Ricci

- Jim found the kids from Dixon with the lowest ACT Explore scores and created a class for them to get them excited about learning. These are the students that don't have an IEP or ELL support. You need the right tools to make this happen.
- When he first started none of the 50 students were at the benchmark level but now 24 out of the 50 are. The students are finding something that works for them.
- They do their own research, write a report and do a presentation.
- They have 3 Chromebook carts for 9 English teachers and they would like more. The 3 are used every single day. Through the generosity of the department they decided to give one cart to Jim.
- Al explains that they are trying to get away from the paper trail and many of the teachers have the students do the work on Google Drive. Also the teachers have found that they can target grammar within the context of their own writing. It helps with vocabulary building. This helps with test preparation. They have also found that e-books are cheaper so this would end up saving money in the long run.
- It's very hard to share 2 Chromebooks among the entire department.
- Questions from Council:

§ Can the English department do what the Science department did to get their Chromebooks? That is through the STEM program so the English department doesn't qualify.

§ Marsha Judkins explained that the board has had the goal to increase the technology funding throughout the district but they

have no support from the state therefore they have had to keep cutting it. Unfortunately, they feel like they are going backwards on it instead of forward.

Lissette (ESL Aide)- Mary Hutchings & Lissette Blanchard

- Mary explains that our state proficiency test, the WIDA, shows that 76% of our students increased their scores from last year. Our sister school had an increase of 47%. They do not have a sheltered program like ours. We believe that the huge difference in percentages is because of our aides in our program. The WIDA testing is on math, science, reading and writing. These are things that our aides are constantly in the classrooms doing with the ELL students.
- Lissette passes out some handouts showing what percentage of our students have passed in each sheltered class. We have met our goal of over 75% of the students passing but our 2nd term was not as great as our first.
- We offer 22 sheltered classes and the funds from the district cover 4 of these. Our funding is based on how poorly our students are doing but as you can see our kids are doing better and better every year so we expect our funding to go down.
- We have 112 students that are considered ELL but we are required to monitor our students that are a 5 or higher for two years but we don't get any additional funding for this. This group totals about 187 students. All three aides help about 100 students daily.
- We have 21 seniors that are ELL and they are all graduating. Three are graduating with Honors and one with High Honors. 19 students have a 3.5 GPA or higher. Nine are in the NHS. Helen Patterson created a GEAR UP Club. Seven of our students have taken leadership roles in that club. 25 of our students are taking Concurrent Enrollment classes. This could save their families thousands of dollars. Three will be taking the AP Spanish test this year. Half our seniors have already passed their civics tests and we will make sure all of them do.
- Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: Through Kids Cause our kids have received 18 pair of glasses, dental care for three, two got money for clothes, and 5 obtained backpacks with school supplies at the beginning of the year. We have help about 20 students with the DACA so they can work here legally. We help them in their lives as well so they can move forward towards a better future.
- There is no way our program could work without funding from the council.
- Question from Council:
 - § Should we have math classes in Spanish so they can do better on the SAGE tests? I don't believe this would help them because as it was pointed out the tests are in English therefore it could

cause them to do worse instead of better. Also there could be a huge problem finding a qualified teacher that will be available year after year. It would be a wonderful thing to experiment with if we had extra funding for it. But as a council, I'm not sure how we can make this happen.

§ Could there be more district training because as of now we are getting zero hours? The district offers ESL Endorsement Classes but it does take 3 years to complete.

· Sinda (Math Aide)- Sinda Cabrera

- She now has two aides that go into the classrooms. They help the kids during the interaction time.
- She has kids go into her classroom so they can have a quiet place to work and focus. She also takes students that need to retake tests.
- She works with the ESL kids and the GEAR UP classes to help students.
- Sinda loves going to graduation knowing that she has helped push these kids there. Many could not do it without her support.
- Justin Heideman points out that in the survey two years in a row, this is what the kids want the money to go towards.
- Questions from council:
 - § Does the funding include the morning tutoring program? No, they are funded through two different accounts.
 - § How can we get smaller math classes? As a council we would have to agree to hire teachers.

· Motion to adjourn meeting by Karen Brown- Lillian Shaw seconds the motion

Attention Items:

- FMP: Why do they get the same stipend as a coach but they only have to work 30-45 minutes a day twice a week for half the year? Karen explains that they do summer training and get less than half of a prep period but the money can be discussed at our next meeting.
- District is doing a math audit next year
- TrustLands budget: \$132,790

If we have any further questions or concerns Karen has invited anyone who would like to, to start an email chain.