

Highland High School Community Council
Minutes October 8, 2008

Present: Teri Lyn Baucom, Cheryl Benson, Ruth Campbell, Kareen Corea, Rachelle Doane, Suzanne Hammond, Karen Hansen, Erin Keenan, Karla Keller, Karen Klc, Doug Jorgensen, Chris Nielson, Rob Price, Paul Schulte, Bert Steele, Kristi Swett, Molly Welch, Laurel Young.

WELCOME: Chris Nielson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 am.

Minutes: Minutes approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

FUNDRAISERS: Oryantal Dansi performance Oct 25--\$5 admission.

TRIPS: Monique Nielsen and FCCLA to Provo.

All Consent Agenda approved.

SCC CONCERNS

District Boundary Changes: Teri Lyn Baucom reported there is an Ad Hoc Boundary Change meeting at Hawthorne Tues, Oct 28 from 5:30-7:30 pm. The changes should send about 60 students to Highland from Hawthorne, Lincoln, and Whittier. East will pick up students from Franklin and West.

IB Program: Molly Welch, SIC Chair, reported that the Salt Lake Board of Education requested Superintendent McKell Withers to revisit the IB program with Highland SIC on Sept 29. The Highland faculty has twice voted on implementing the IB program and it did not meet ratification either time. Since that vote, IB is now a District program and an AP/IB Coordinator has been hired. There is now money available for special programs at each high school. SIC asked that the new information be given to the faculty, and McKell Withers met with the faculty at the Oct. 6 Faculty meeting. Principal Paul Schulte pointed out that the IB vote was only a few votes short of the 2/3 majority needed to pass. Only teachers present at the faculty meeting could vote. The SCC approved the program last year. The faculty needs to try come to consensus. It needs to be discussed in departments and revisited in SIC. Ruth Campbell said that departments feel stretched and are reluctant to add any more programs. She said that SLTA tries to solve problems at the lowest level, and faculty should try to reach consensus first before having to vote. She suggested that parents visit faculty meeting to share their views. Teri Lyn Baucom said there are parents willing to attend. Kristi Swett reported that the Board of Education has money available for each high school and that the money is not mandated for a particular program. East is not interested in an IB Program, but Highland has shown interest and Hillside would like to develop an ELP program to feed into Highland and IB. The Highland program would be different from that at West, and there would be a cohort of about 30 students who would follow the program. Molly Welch clarified the process to be followed: SIC and SCC need to reach consensus before submitting it to the faculty for a vote. It was decided that an informational meeting needs to be held to inform the community and determine their interest. The community may attend SIC and faculty meetings.

SIC REPORT: Molly Welch

AVID Program: This is a District program which targets first generation college bound students. Eventually, there will be a single class of about 30 students for each grade and it will include tutoring, scholarship information, and study skills. The 9th grade class will start next semester. One teacher from each core subject has been trained. Teachers are asked to help identify candidates. Trevor Lang is a new advisor in the Counseling Center to help students with college preparation.

Timing of Parent Teacher Conferences: Parents do not always have midterm grades when the conferences are held, but if they are held later, there is little time left in the quarter for student remediation if needed. The timing of conferences is a District decision. Paul Schulte suggested that part of the problem is in a quarter system vs. semester system. A semester system could send out a progress report at 4 weeks and have conferences at 8 weeks. Parents in SCC said they prefer the current time for conferences and need teachers and parents to keep to the scheduled times for appointments. Teachers need to take those with appointments first and try to work in those without appointments. Paul said that 50% of parents have email and can make appointments for conferences; those without computer access can call the office for appointments. It was suggested that Highland could help parents learn to use ESIS and Ugly Frog at registration in August.

Skateboards/Longboards: It is against state law to have these on a school campus. Highland will allow them as long as they are stored in lockers and not used on the school campus.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Paul Schulte

Trust Lands Budget will be used for a teacher and paraprofessionals for support programs for freshmen and sophomores.

Accreditation is one year from November. Next month SCC will discuss setting up community focus groups to help with accreditation.

AYP: Highland made AYP and UPASS this year. To make AYP, Highland had to show growth in all 40 categories. Language Arts testing scores all 10th graders. Math testing scores only those 10th graders in Elem. Algebra and Geometry. Students taking advanced math classes are never counted. So Highland's growth in math is especially commendable. Rob Price said that Highland's AP pass rates are slightly below the national rates. Parents need to realize that as rigor in AP classes is increased to help with pass rates, student grades may decrease. Paul said that Highland has increased its AP offerings this year.

SPA REPORT: Kristi Swett

Enrollment for SPA this year is 145.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 am
Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Hammond