

Highland High School
Minutes of the School Community Council
September 13, 2017

The regular meeting of the Highland High School Community Council (SCC) was held at Highland High School Room C110, 2166 South 1700 East Salt Lake City, Utah convening at 6:35 AM.

Present:

Joan Lind, Chairperson
Chris Jenson, Principal
Sue Alder
Dayna Evans
Amy Foulks
Mary Lane Grisley
Joanne Moffatt
Lisa Morley
Bruce Simpson
Kristi Swett
Maggie Tesch

SCC Items of Business:

- Chairperson Lind welcomed all attendees.
- New SCC member elections will not be held for the 2017-18 school year. Kristi Swett recommended that Principal Jenson encourage representation from The School for Performing Arts to sit on this Council. Tim Porter will be joining the Council in place of Katie Ieremia who has left Highland High to fill a position at the district level.
- Chairperson Lind reviewed the SCC operating procedures.
 - It was suggested that fundraisers be circulated ahead of the meeting on a consent agenda which will save time during the meetings.

Administration:

- Principal Jenson provided an update to the Council as to how the first few weeks of school has gone noting that the year was off to a great start.
- As was approved last year by the Council, the following fundraising activities will not require specific approval: activity concessions, team posters, SBO community events (e.g., carnival), and banners.
- The following consents for fundraisers were presented to the Council and approved.
 - Volleyball Team – Luau to raise funds for a new net system
 - Choir – Desserts donated by parents and sold at the fall concert
 - Golf – myschoolfees.com email fundraiser
 - Wrestling – Big Brothers Big Sisters clothing drive
 - Instrumental Music – myschoolfees.com email fundraiser (personalized newsletter will be sent to parents)
 - Instrumental Music – Selling butter braids
- The following consent for a field trip was presented to the Council and approved:
 - Tennis Team - St. George, UT.

- Principal Jenson mentioned that there are 28 girls who are also refugees that are attending Highland High this year. He discussed activities that these young women will be participating in.
- Principal Jenson reviewed the SIP/Trust Land document from 2016-17 and noted the following:
 - Beginning this year, Sage testing will be given to freshman and sophomores only with a greater focus on the ACT for junior and senior students.
 - ACT testing given during the 2016-17 school year saw substantial improvement in scores for Highland High School students. The previous year's composite was 20.1 (state average was 20.2) but Highland saw lower scores in various subgroups. This past year the composite improved to 20.9 even with a larger number of students having been tested. Subgroup scores improved substantially as well. Principal Jenson attributes much of the improvement to teachers providing more creative instruction in the classroom, better infrastructure and support as well as Highland's ACT Prep program offered multiple times throughout the school year.
 - Dropout rates have decreased over the past several years – 19% in 2012 down to 7% in 2016 and decreasing.
 - Mary Lane Grisley mentioned that all 30 students who participated in the IB program in 2016-17 received their IB diploma – this is the first time all IB students have achieved this.
 - Goal #2 of the plan is to maintain an overall graduation rate of 90% but increase the graduation rate for all demographic subgroups that were below 90% last year. One way that Highland hopes to achieve this goal is through AVID professional development training which helps teachers to breakaway from teacher-centered instruction.
 - Goal #3 is related to decreasing chronic absenteeism.
 - The school is no longer handing out tardy slips but instead are encouraging students that are late to class to get there as quickly as possible. The school is already seeing an improvement now that students aren't stopping to get a tardy slip.
 - Student advocates will be reaching out to chronic absenteeism families. The school is considering home visits.
 - Class sizes have been reduced but there are still some hot spots that school administration is working on. One example of this is AP Language Arts.
- Principal Jenson provided the Council with copies of the discretionary and trust land budgets. Included are salaries to decrease class size, allocation for professional education services, and supplies procurement (used in large part to purchase social studies text books). Kristi Swett asked Principal Jenson to offer recommendations to the Board as to how to reduce textbook costs – discussion ensued about the pros and cons of paper vs. online books.
- The school's 1024 budget is used mostly for graduation which costs between \$15,000-30,000 annually. Last year, graduation costs were up because a new robe was designed.

SIC: Nothing to report

District Report: Nothing to report

PTA: Nothing to report

Being that there were no additional items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 AM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2017 at 6:30 AM.