

Community Council Minutes 11.12.18

Attending: Janel Arbon, Steven Hren, Heidi Wainer, Kathy Williams, Eve Maher-Young

Minutes: Janel moved to approve the minutes, Kathy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizens to be heard – Connie Wilson could not come, but Janel conveyed that she was going to express a desire for the school to share more information about how to help seniors with college applications like they do in Monticello. We all agreed that it would be helpful to have a check list of deadlines and strategies for local colleges and scholarships. Dr. Hren suggested spring of Junior Year, so students could work on essays over the summer.

Reports:

Digital literacy – we watched a video summarizing the council's role supervising digital citizenship. Eve said she was concerned to learn that the chrome books used in classrooms did not use net filters. Dr. Hren said tech staff are currently working on getting the same filters for chrome books that other computers use. Dr. Hren discussed some of the ways tech safety is taught in school.

Review of report - We reviewed the final report for last year's plan.

- We overspent by \$100.
- This tri, tiered intervention is contributing to the lowest failure rate in math in many years. Eve expressed a concern that students on the upper end are being overlooked because they are not failing.
- We did not hold a summer ACT course this year, in favor of doing schmoop during incentive time. The highest number of students that ever came was 4, even with incentives. Eve and Kathy said it would be great for students to be required to go to ACT prep during advisory. Perhaps an elective credit would be a bigger incentive. Heidi said the best thing about the ACT class was that it was scheduled so her son had to attend. Dr. Hren told us in addition to schmoop, this year students will be taking aspire plus core tests instead of sage tests. Half of Aspire questions are ACT type questions.
- Numbers are increasing for the strings and choir classes.
- Dr. Hren has already submitted the plan to the state trust lands.

Core-testing comparison – Dr. Hren shared his school board presentations comparing the results from 2004/05 – current core tests. He said the biggest change in scores was during the 2011/12 year, when teachers could no longer incentivize these core tests (giving grades or extra credit for passing core tests). When interviewed, students admitted to blowing off the test and not taking it seriously in 2013/14. In addition over the past few years, a lot higher achieving students have opted out of taking core tests. Heidi asked if a school rivalry challenge would be a legal incentive, such as challenging students to get higher scores than Blanding.

Breakfast for staff at winter conferences – We will plan at January meeting, but we also need to ask other parents to contribute.

We decided not have a December meeting.