

Valley High School Community Council Meeting Minutes 9/13/17

The Valley High School Community Council met September 13th, 2017 at 6pm. In attendance were Sharon Jensen, Jacinto Peterson, Val Brandt, Cathrin Wischmann, Tracy Castellanos, Becky Lopez, PJ Smalley, Leah Smith, Marsha McBride (parent member), Tiffany Turner (parent member), and Karen Allen (parent member). Kathy Utter (parent member), Sheri Burke (parent member), and Raylene Glover were excused.

After introductions were made and the roles of the council and individual members were explained, Marsha McBride was elected as the school community council chairperson.

Council members were invited to attend an upcoming community council training on November 9th from 6-8 pm. For additional information, please contact Sharon Jensen.

It was decided that the next community council meeting should be held on November 29th from 6-7 pm.

Sharon Jensen gave an update on the renovations of the school's cafeteria. The district is planning to add an awning over the front of the cafeteria. Food can now be served faster, and the wonderful cafeteria workers are now able to provide a wider variety of food for the students. A change has been made to the daily school schedule to accommodate a half-hour lunch break for students.

Also new this year, is the school's mindfulness program. Every session of school each day begins with a mindful pause during which faculty and students are provided with the opportunity to practice mindfulness techniques. The school offers a mindfulness meditation room for students and faculty to use throughout the day. During Power Time every day, a different teacher leads a mindfulness exercise in the meditation room.

Sharon Jensen gave an update on the school's results from last year's ACT. The overall average in a five-year trend is 15.5%. Two percent of students tested demonstrated college readiness. Many Valley students attend Salt Lake Community College where ACT scores are not required for admission.

Jacinto Peterson reported on the school's efforts to establish a safe and welcoming environment for students and staff. We have a culture of acceptance here at Valley that alleviates many of the problems typically found in high schools. Several parent members expressed their gratitude for the efforts of faculty and staff to support the students and for the atmosphere of the school. Besides the school's mindfulness initiative, we also utilize the state's Safe Utah System through which students can report incidents and obtain help. We will be having an internet safety presentation provided by NetSmartz on October 23rd and 25th during Power Time.

Val Brandt shared with us the counseling center's current efforts to support students. Starting next week, students will meet with their counselors to discuss their post-high school plans and to plan their second quarter schedules.

The counseling department will be collecting data for their project this year which focuses on school retention rates for various subsets of the school population so as to be able to better advise and support students who might struggle in the future.

Val also reminded us of the annual Christmas stocking service project through which students will have the opportunity of earning credit while participating in a meaningful project. On average, they have made and delivered 250 stockings to the Boys and Girls Club of Midvale in past years.

Finally, the school council reviewed the Lands Trust Plan for this year. This is one of the community council's primary responsibilities each year. The plan must be developed and approved in the spring for the coming school year.

Due to changes in the expected amount of money which we would receive, the 2017-2018 budget needed to be cut by \$18,000. Sharon Jensen led a line-item discussion of the plan in which questions were asked and answered about various proposed items. The benefits of each item were evaluated and we ultimately decided to remove \$7,500 from Goal #1- hiring aides to contact students; \$2,000 from Goal #2- Friday Field Trips admission and bus costs; and \$8,500 from Goal #5- purchasing more Chromebook labs for classroom use.

Upcoming school events:

- Alumni Open House- Tuesday, 9/26 6-8pm
- Parent Teacher Conferences- Thursday, 9/28 3-8pm
- Fall Recess- Thursday, 10/13
- NetSmartz Internet Training 10/23 & 10/26 during Power Time
- End of 1st Quarter- 10/26
- Start of 2nd Quarter- 10/30
- College Prep Day- 11/8 seniors only attend
- Alumni Open House- Tuesday, 11/21 6-8pm
- Next SCC meeting Wednesday, 11/29 6-7pm