

TIMPANOGOS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 9, 2008

In attendance: Mark Shurtliff, Stacey Edgington, Kay Thomas, Jennifer Lewis, Lyn Denna, Janessa Millett, Michelle Teng, Taylor Allen, Theron Murphy, Bill Berneau, Kori Crampton, Aaron Barth, Cathy Keller, Brad Molen, Michael Larson, Michael Nagro

Introduction

Theron introduced Bill Berneau to the council. Bill is a BYU LPP intern who will be assisting the administration through February.

School Improvement Updates

English Department

Michael Nagro reviewed last summer's remediation program. He explained that the English department had some questions as to whether or not the summer UBSCT review class is still necessary because of the summer school classes being offered at Mountain View and Lone Peak high schools. Last summer only 15 students participated. In previous years, before summer school was offered, the numbers have been nearly triple last year's count. He also suggested offering the class closer to the test date during the school year rather than during the summer. He suggested holding the class after school closer to the test date rather than in the summer.

Mr. Nagro then requested that the council consider funding projection technology for the English department. He explained that there are only 3 projectors in the school and all of the teachers need them at the same time as end of term projectors for all classes are due about the same time. The English department currently uses overhead projectors which are outdated and do not accommodate the high tech needs of the teachers and students. It was also suggested that better technology helps to engage the students and develop a more positive attitude. Ideally, they would like to have a projector mounted in every English class.

Kori pointed out the value of using time wisely in the classroom. She felt the projection technology would greatly benefit every student because of the time saved by everyone. It also enhances the excitement about learning. There is also a cost associated with using the overhead projectors.

The student representatives all agreed that they are more excited about learning when current technology is used.

Cathy reminded everyone that replacement bulbs are about \$300 each and asked who would pay for them. Mr. Nagro said they know the cost of the bulbs and would use their English funds to replace bulbs.

Mr. Nagro requested that the council help with funds for seven projectors, mounts, and wiring. The teachers would be willing to install their own projectors, if appropriate. The English department would contribute \$1000 of its budget, the writing lab funds could be used in the amount of \$1,000, as well as the \$1,000 stipend from the research survey. That leaves approximately \$5,000 needed to provide all English classrooms as well as the English lab.

Mark stressed that all Land Trust monies used must be tied to the school's greatest academic need so it would have to be shown how the students would benefit academically from the technology.

Financial Literacy

Brad Molen reported on the summer collaboration funds that were awarded to teachers through land trust last summer. The Financial Literacy teachers used the time to write lesson plans, review tests and assignments and well as rewrite units. They planned a real life expo that gives the students practical experience budgeting and spending money. They also used time review student scores and helping each other determine why some students are learning and others are not grasping the concepts. It was also a good time for them to share teaching strategies. When asked about the difference between collaboration during the school year and summer collaboration, Brad responded that the main advantage is a larger time frame to spend together working on problems and ideas. Brad said the financial team would welcome the opportunity to spend time another summer working together to become better teachers.

Theron reminded the council that benefits must be included when paying monies to teachers. In the past there has been some confusion about number of hours that may be worked for a set amount of money.

Minute Approval

Mark made a motion to approve the November 11, 2008 minutes. Cathy seconded the motion and they were approved by the council with the changes as read. In the future Carolyn will send minutes to Theron and Mark for approval. After their approval, they will be sent to all council members. All members should then review the minutes within two days of receipt and send any changes to Carolyn. Changes will be made to minutes and published to web-site.

In Service Applications

Jennifer Lewis reviewed the amended applications of Rose Mary Lindberg and Megan Inouye. Rose Mary Lindberg requested an additional \$140 for the cost of transportation and a hotel room. This would make Rose Mary's grant (including tuition, transportation, and hotel) total \$339.

Megan requested \$375 for hotel costs, \$160 for airfare and \$190 for cab fares and meals. Megan's total cost (including conference tuition, airfare, cab fare and meals) for the math in-service would be \$1350.

Theron made a motion to approve the funds for both teachers. Aaron seconded the motion.

Stakeholders Report

Lyn Denna distributed draft copies of this year's Stakeholder report. She explained that the purpose of the report is to inform patrons of the accomplishments as well as the goals of the school. She encouraged teachers to e-mail her successes they would like to see included. Lyn's e-mail address is lyn@byu.net. Thereon suggested that we include an answer to the questions, "What do we do when students aren't learning?" He thought it would be beneficial to share our vision and explain the work the student success team is doing this year.

It was requested that the January meeting be moved from January 13 to January 6 in order to have the council review the Stakeholder's report which is due on January 9. Everyone agreed to the date change.

Land Trust Video

Mark reminded everyone who had not seen the Matter of Trust CD to check it out from Carolyn. It is a short 15 minute explanation of the Land Trust program.

Principal's Report

Theron showed a picture of the faculty that has been matted and framed. Teachers willing to make the commitment to work together to improve an already great school were asked to sign the mat. He emphasized that the school is great but we must all commit to protect the culture by weeding out negative things that affect the team. The picture will be displayed in the commons.

Three of the students from the Wolf Pack club explained that three clubs were combined for the common goal of helping to promote school spirit and keep the crowds at games under control. It is their goal to represent THS in a classy way. They will also be selling headband and shirts at the games.

Theron read an e-mail from an official concerning the state tournament recognizing THS as a school of class and good sportsmanship.

Student Led Conference

Theron asked for input and opinions about the parent led conference. He stressed that it is up to the faculty, administration, and school leaders to decide which format best meets

the needs of the students and parents. Whatever decision is made, everyone needs to be on board and supportive of the decision that is made. He suggested that perhaps one student led conference and 2 traditional conferences be held each school year. Surveys were taken at the last conference and the consensus was about 50 percent for traditional and 50 percent for student led conferences.

The student representatives felt that a lot of student and teachers are not supportive of the student led conferences. Taylor felt like he could just take work home to show parents. The student led conferences are not that beneficial unless the teacher is involved. He felt that if the conferences were going to be successful the students need to be engaged and collaborate with teachers to set goals. They also felt that some classes were more conducive to a student led conference than others. Another problem for the students was remembering to put samples of work from classes other than A2 in the portfolio.

Everyone agreed there are pros and cons to both formats. It may just depend on the student and parent relationship. Everyone enjoyed seeing what different teachers do in a class setting. Teacher Council reps enjoyed having the conferences in their rooms. There was concern that students were not as prepared as they should be, but they were successful in that parents did come and visit with teacher with students involved in conversations. Bill Berneau felt that if student led conferences follow the right format and if the proper preparation is made, they can be very successful. Lyn pointed out that different conferences are beneficial for different purposes. She enjoys meeting the teachers at the first conference, but doesn't necessarily need three conferences every year.

The last parent teacher conference will be a traditional conference.

Meeting was adjourned until January 6.