

Friday, November 18, 2022

Community Council Minutes

Conducting: Sara Wursten & Chris Fuhriman

1. Summary of the data from our last meeting
2. Request to do shadowing of comparable schools that were showing progress in the math, science, and writing areas (Edgemont, Canyon Crest, Sunrise School, Beacon Heights)
 - a. Want to brainstorm questions to ask these schools if/when get the opportunity to visit them
 - i. What do they do to prepare for state assessments?
 - ii. What are their class sizes like?
 - iii. What is their schedule like?
 - iv. What have they found to be most effective for their STEM instruction?
 - v. What curriculum do they use?
 - vi. Is there anything they do specifically for gifted students?
 - vii. What do they do to better help students with special needs? (our STEM classes have a higher percentage of those students)
 1. Want to make sure we do not lose ground with our language arts skills
 - viii. If these other schools have DLI programs, how do they support the content that is being taught in a different language?
 - ix. How do other schools address the community perception of differences between programs like STEM and DLI?
 - x. How do other schools address some of the real differences between programs like STEM and DLI?
 - b. Question about how much the reading and writing skills of students are affecting student outcomes when it comes to testing in math and science
 - c. What is the best way to arrange how to meet with these other schools?
 - i. Let's give them the list of questions in advance so they can prepare for the visit
3. Question about why the previous math extensions program was ended
 - a. It was too static and didn't adapt to student needs and concepts
 - b. Discussed different ideas about student grouping and mixed ability groups to better meet individual student needs - possibility of a few more aides, or hiring an extensionist
4. Communication Requests
 - a. Request to have available positions posted in the weekly newsletter
 - i. Please post details of what kind of hours would be allowed
 - b. Also a request to have a principal's newsletter that is sent out regularly
 - c. Of the three interviews admin had yesterday, only one of the candidates actually came
 - i. Suggestion to advertise at the BYU math lab for candidates
 - ii. Have had struggles with BYU students who only stay for a semester and then leave
 - d. Suggestion to have a qualified teacher work with the advanced students because it is just as important they have a qualified instructor as the students who are struggling
 - i. Have a lot of gifted students who leave to CAS in order to participate in a more rigorous academic program in math
 - ii. Request to find out what curriculum the CAS program is using with their students
 1. From what we know, the CAS program has more latitude with curriculum because the students already know a lot of the core material and they are able to do more project based learning
 2. Admin who taught next to a CAS program last year, said they are using the same curriculum and materials, but at a much more rapid pace (i.e. two years in one)
 - a. There is a lot we can do to help build capacity within our current teachers

- b. One of the struggles would be handling the two different math programs - the two different programs are not necessarily aligned with their scope and sequence
 - iii. Request to try and find out how the trajectory of students who stay at Wasatch and those who participate in CAS, change over time as they go through secondary school
 - 1. Is there a difference in trajectory? How much?
 - 2. Might be able to reach out to Judy Rose in the district to find out these details
 - iv. Also a request to find out about the types of extracurriculars they do at other schools like CAS so that students might have more options like Math Olympiad, etc.
 - 1. Do not want our high students to stagnate
 - 2. Question about if there would be grants available to help pay teachers/staff who might need to stay after school to help run those
5. DLI Program
 - a. AAPPL testing has begun and the administration plans on looking at the current progress of students in Chinese and cross-reference that with the math, science, and reading
6. Current Positions Open
 - a. ESL aide
 - b. SpEd aide
 - c. Kindergarten aide
 - d. Extensionist position was opened right after the last Community Council meeting, so it is likely closed now
7. Request to also post when there are unfilled sub positions in the weekly newsletter
8. Reminder of the Roles of Community Council
 - a. Advise on digital citizenship
 - i. We have used NetSmartz previously - this used to be state funded/supported program
 - ii. Only one presentation per year is required as a part of this program
 - iii. There is an additional aspect of digital citizenship that the STEM classes are receiving through the new SkillStruck program
 - b. The school will plan on continuing to use NetSmartz as the digital citizenship program
9. Request to consider having Hank Smith come and present to the student body
 - a. Also have the option of using the district video he did for Provo during the COVID years
10. Request from administration to pass on the information if hear of neat presenters or learning experiences that could be beneficial for students
11. Bridging the STEM and DLI classes
 - a. Sara Parrish is looking into arranging a school wide Chinese New Year's cultural celebration
 - b. PAWS will be moving international week to coordinate with Chinese New Year next year
 - c. Suggestion to have room parents help coordinate integrated activities that span both sets of classes on each grade level
 - d. Will also try to have schedules that will allow grade levels to have a shared recess other than lunch
 - e. Have also removed the classroom tables in the cafeteria, and instead have a grade level areas during lunch
12. Request to look at demographics of learning and socioeconomic levels within the two programs of DLI and STEM classes within our school

Next meeting will convene in January