

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

1. Welcome and introductions by principal, Rick Anthony. Rick recognized Barbara Zabriskie's dedication as our Chair for the last 2 years and would like to present her with a thank-you gift. She was instrumental in getting our crosswalk light for us.
2. New Committee Chair and Secretary were elected:
 - a. Julie Evans – chair
 - b. Sherri Branch – secretary
3. Rick Anthony gave update on the start of school:
 - a. Overall, school has started smoothly. Seventh grade parent orientation was a success on the morning of the first day of school. Rick would like to add an orientation in the evening for those parents who cannot attend the morning one. Even though there were problems with the sound system, parents were very pleased with the information presented and really liked the Q and A at the end. Other feedback from parents indicated they were disappointed with the elimination of the Learning Lab and STAR Fridays (due to budget cuts). Teachers will still be available after school as needed on an individual basis.
 - b. Rick mentioned the new teachers as well as the two interns we have from the University of Utah.
 - c. Craig Decker (band/orchestra) is now on Long Term disability and will come by sometime to say his farewell to the staff. Alyssa McCollum (certified educator) started the school year as his long term sub, with the agreement to become permanent if necessary.
 - d. Our school theme this year is still CAR (Citizenship, Academics, Read life skills). Our focus this year will be placed on **Real Life Skills**. Our plan is to implement a Reality Town activity that will be operated mainly through Advisory Period, with some carry over into the regular class periods as necessary. Planning and preparation, involving staff and students, will take most of the school year, with the culminating activity taking place sometime in March.
 - e. **School Achievement Plan**: Our school did not meet AYP this year. Rick felt this was due in part to the federal standards "raising the bar" every year, making achievement unrealistic. Our school did not show enough growth this year to make AYP. Rick met with the Department Chairs to resolve/discuss this issue. One item of interest is the

fact that our ELL subgroup has consistently performed worse every year since 2002, when all the federal standards began. Our school will focus on this subgroup and try to stop this “nosedive”, although this group’s population is steadily increasing every year. This year we have approximately 10-15 in our Early ELL class, but about 200 in our Intermediate ELL classes, with many of these kids being illiterate in both English and their native language. We do not have the resources to assist these kids in a pull-out program, but we do accommodate them through ESL classes and Reading classes.

4. Rick gave a Trustlands Budget Review

- a. Rick gave all those present a handout summarizing the Trustlands Budget (Trustlands Budget Worksheet). Most of our Trustlands money is used to keep class size down. This worksheet is “fluid” and the amounts in each category can change if necessary.
- b. Meeting only once per month does not allow us to vote on the budget decisions as they arise, so the Council members agreed to allow Rick to make Trustlands Budget decisions between meetings as long as Rick keeps documentation of his decisions on the worksheet. Rick will send out an updated Worksheet upon request at anytime, and will update us at each meeting if any changes are made.

5. Other Items Discussed:

- a. Nikki Hurst mentioned that Shauna Lockwood (apology if misspelled) would like input from us for the District Community Council.
- b. Jefferson will offer Boys Intramural Soccer (money provided from a grant). We already have a Girls Soccer Team, but no soccer is offered for boys at this time. By using this grant, we can now offer a Boys Soccer Team. It will be run in an intramural fashion, with a “superstar” type team being selected to play against Kennedy Jr. High and Kearns Jr. High. We hope to have a team for the fall and the spring, and are hoping to start as soon as next week.
- c. Our school passed our UBI evaluation last year. UBI money allows us to have our school store, CARE CARds, and good citizenship activities (movies, etc). In the past years we have received \$2000-\$2500, this year it looks like only about \$1000.
- d. Mike Anderson sent out a “Thank You” to all the parents. We have had a great start to the school year and the students are much more prepared than in previous years, and the parents are to thank for that. He also brought 2 item to our attention:
 - i. The newly formed Kearns Youth Council, involving Jefferson Jr., Kearns Jr., and Kearns High Schools. This is a forum comprised of students, allowing them to have a voice in our community and providing an avenue to be heard. The plan is for these students to have a voice at our Community Council and City Council

meetings. This Youth Council will meet at Kearns High on October 7, but will probably meet at the Kearns Library for future meetings.

- ii. The DWR is sponsoring a National Archery in the Schools Program. This requires a certified archery instructor, which Mike Anderson and some other staff are currently training for. This is a feeder program into the Olympics and is heavily tied into academics. This will hopefully begin here at Jefferson in this spring.
- e. Next Meeting: October 20, 2009 (in Jefferson Media Center)
- i. Debrief
 - ii. Discuss School Achievement Plan for this school year