

Alta High School  
School Community Council  
October 8, 2015

Those Present:

Brian McGill  
Renee Grow  
Shannon Alvey  
Cheryl Awerkamp  
Karin Hunter  
Jim Jensen  
Mary Lauer  
Matthew Stanford  
Ann Murdock  
Cindy Palmer  
Albert Spencer-Wise  
Jolene Erickson  
April Richardson  
Laura Fenlaw  
Jennifer Scheffner  
Terra Bingham

Renee welcomed the council and excused the following council members: Deena Denning, Tiffany Keim, and Katie Jones. They are all currently at an Alta athletic event. Renee also mentioned that Village Baker in Sandy is having their Grand Re-Opening on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Karl Packer and the Student Body officers were not available for an update.

**Counseling Center**

Jennifer Scheffner reported for the Counseling Center. The Senior CCR's are finished and after Fall Break they will start the 9<sup>th</sup> grade PLAN CCR's. November 16 – 20 will be Utah College Application Week; during this week all seniors will be completing at least one college application. Last year Alta had 79% of the senior class complete college applications. Last year this was done during Advisory, this year counselors will meet with students during their English classes. The Canyons School District foundation has funds available for students who are in need of financial assistance.

**Work Based Learning**

Helen Brown reported for Work Based Learning. The morning of December 3<sup>rd</sup> Work Based Learning will be hosting a Career Fair. There will be 60 guest presenters; each student will choose two presentations to visit. The Superintendent and Principal will

welcome the presenters that morning. Students will take a survey after the Career Fair for their input. Mr. McGill thanked Helen for her hard work getting each student to select the presenters they wanted to attend. Helen is still looking for a filmmaker and an author if anyone has a suggestion.

### **Principal McGill**

The PSAT and PLAN tests will be given on October 14<sup>th</sup>, school will be on a modified schedule. Sophomores and Juniors taking the PSAT will start testing at 7:30 am. Freshman, Juniors and Seniors will have lunch at 11:25 am and classes will begin at 12:00 noon.

The PLAN test given to all Sophomores is a good predictor for ACT success. It is also a good academic benchmark accessing areas of academic strengths and areas for improvement.

The PSAT is given to Juniors and Sophomores and is the same provider as the SAT test. Students interested in the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Exam need to take the PSAT, finalists receive full ride scholarship opportunities. The PSAT is also a good academic benchmark for students. Cheryl Averkamp reported that students unable to take the test on October 14<sup>th</sup> could take the test at American Preparatory Academic on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The date for the PSAT is decided nationally.

Terra Bingham reported on attendance at Alta – data on this quarter would not be available until the end of the quarter. Terra spoke to a number of teachers who reported improved attendance from last year. Link Crew has been working with students to help them feel more connected to other students. Terra also reported on the fall Parent Teacher conference attendance. The comparison from last year showed a decline in attendance from 30 percent last fall to 23 percent overall this fall. Thirty percent (30%) of Freshman parents attended, 19% of Sophomore parents, 23% of Junior parents, and 21% of Senior parents attended parent teacher conferences this year. The average attendance for most high school is around 30 percent. Parents have access to Skyward and Canvas to monitor their student's grades and attendance.

Mr. McGill asked the council for their feedback on parent teacher conferences. The BLT (Building Leadership Team) has discussed the option of two night conferences, the conference layout (in the commons or in the gym). The BLT was split 50/50 on having conferences in their classroom or in the gym.

- One comment was that when conferences were in a classroom, parents waiting would come into the classroom and wait and confidentiality became an issue.
- Having conference in the commons or gym gives parents an opportunity to watch for teachers with the shortest line. It was also suggested that teachers

have a timer so that they only take 5 – 10 minutes for each parent, and suggest another meeting at a later date for those who need more time.

- Jordan School district does one day starting conferences at 12:00 noon until 8:00 pm, students do not attend on that day.
- Helen suggested trying one day without appointments and the next day with appointments.
- It is also a concern that many teachers are unavailable due to athletic conflicts.

### **Land Trust**

Mr. McGill explained that the Land Trust \$5000 earmarked for PBIS will be used for posters and incentives for prizes. The State wanted an explanation of how funds will be spent; he sent an addendum to the Land Trust plan with an explanation.

### **Alta Boundaries**

Canyon School District Board of Education Motion, 10-06-15 proposed a boundary change, which would impact Corner Canyon, Alta, and Jordan High School. Corner Canyon enrollment is at around 2200 and the school was built to accommodate 1800. The Board made recommendations to move students living west of 114 to the prison to Alta. This change would give Alta about 200 additional students and bring all Canyons high schools to around 2000. Enrollment of 2000-2100 helps to build a comprehensive board, adds an additional Assistant Principal, and bolsters all other school activities. The northeast Draper community was in attendance at the Board meeting and objected to being bussed to Alta High School. If the Board decides to move forward with this motion it will impact Freshmen the Fall of 2017.

### **Alumni/Student Government Room**

Mr. McGill reviewed the proposal to add an Alumni/Student Government room at Alta. The room would be similar to the one at Jordan High School (the room the SCC meeting was held), displaying alumni, famous alumni recognized, and Alta artifacts. Student government, PTSA, School Community Council and the counseling center would also be able to use the room for meetings.

It was suggested that we could fundraise or the Alumni could contribute by, selling bricks with names of donors or a wall of donors. The cost of the remodel would be around \$30,000-\$50,000. Mr. McGill proposed to use money from Alta's cell tower money, which is around \$165,000 to date. He asked for a vote from the council, Jennifer Scheffner made the motion to use cell tower money to remodel the Alumni room, Shannon Alvey seconded the motion, the council voted unanimously.

**PTSA Update**

No PTSA update.

Mr. McGill reviewed the after school Math tutoring schedule, and congratulated Kiara Vargas from Alta's LIA (Latino's in Action) she will be representing Alta in Washington DC.

Jim Jensen moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 pm, Albert Spencer-Wise seconded the motion.