



# Alta High School

## SCC Minutes

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Attending: Callie Bjerregaard, Melissa Gibb, Kelly Maskem, Nicole Harman, Merinda Cutler, Navina Forsythe, Katie Atkinson, Jeff Colemere, Nele Ofisa, SBO Kimy Ha, Ken Rowley, Katie Christensen, Shelly Karren, Michelle Douglas, Rachel Felsing

Not in attendance: Tess Hortin, Kjersti Barlow, Chad VanOrden, Erin Black, Page Checketts

### **I. Welcome – Katie Christensen**

- Called to order at 3:15pm

### **II. Minutes from last meeting - Katie Christensen**

- Motion to approve minutes: Jeff Colemere
- Seconded: Kelly Maskem
- Unanimous vote to approve

### **III. Council members information**

- We need to make sure we have updated contact information for all council members

### **IV. SBO Update/Report Shaley Louder & SBO's - Kimmy Ha**

- Alta Idol, Jan 23, 8 contestants entered, Sweethearts dance will be Feb 4, and Prom and Senior Dinner Dance are upcoming
- Multicultural week was very successful
- Morp was successful, didn't hold it last year so students were excited to attend
- Make -a-Wish fundraising went well. Students met the goal for Make-a-Wish and earned an hour lunch which they loved.

### **V. PTSA Update – Nicole Harman**

- Cocoa and Coffee was held on teacher prep day which worked better. Teachers were able to come down to have a little break from grading. The PTSA served hot chocolate, coffee and cinnamon rolls
- PTSA will be providing dinner for the teachers for parent teacher conference in February
- PTSA will be sending 10 students to the capital for PTA day on Feb 9. Canyons School District's day is Feb 7, but PTSA had conflicts. Indian Hills and

Eastmont are also attending on Feb 9

- Hawk Stash has been completely reorganized and PTSA is working with the counselors and admin to figure out how to move the Hawk Stash forward. Students seem to want/need things they can use throughout the day, fruit snacks, granola bars plus deodorant and shampoo. Hawk Stash has a lot of feminine hygiene products which are not being used now that those products are being stocked in the restrooms. PTSA is looking into where those products might be donated so they are not just sitting on the shelf.
- PTSA is going through the nominating process. They are looking for several positions including a new president elect.

## **VI. Counseling Corner – Mrs. Bjerregaard**

- Semester schedule changes are happening right now so that is always a busy time
- Jan 30 is College Day, which is for juniors. College Day is put on by the Utah Higher Education Association so all the colleges in the state send representatives. Juniors will go to the PAC at noon for an opening session, then the students choose three breakout sessions to attend where each college presents info about the admissions process, and scholarships, etc. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about the different colleges so students are highly encouraged to attend.
- In February PCCRs will be held with Freshman and Sophomores. The students will do their scheduling course requests during that time. Parents are invited to the PCCRs and will be receiving information about that. Course requests are so important to the counselors and the admin because it determines the classes that are taught and how many of each class is built into the schedule.
- Junior course requests will be done in advisory in February. Junior PCCRs were held in November. Classes and credits needed were talked about during that time with parents and students.
- Freshman orientation this Thursday at 7 in the PAC. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders are excited for high school. Course request cards will be given to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders that night and it is a chance for the incoming students to see classes, clubs and activities offered at Alta. It is always a night that is well attended and fun. Counselors will go to the middle schools the following week to pick up the course request cards.
- Multicultural night was great. There were so many countries represented during the cultural walk on Friday representing the diversity of cultures at Alta. It was a great thing to see.
- Mental health is an ongoing struggle. The counselors are doing their best to help those students.

## **VII. Update on data requests from last meeting – Ms. Karren**

- Follow up from last month and a look ahead to Land Trust. Much of the data presented today points to areas where we would like to solicit/expand support.
  - a. Attendance
    - Most focused on tardies and unexcused absences. Graphs provided to show attendance trends over the past 3 years. 2019 with Covid, was different in how attendance was tracked. Looking at this year and the new attendance policy, we need more time to see how things go. Students need to be in the building, that is where we can have the

greatest impact. We need to remind both parents and students of this. Encouraged by first quarter data. Tardies and unexcused absences were slightly down from last year. Still room for improvement.

- Attendance policy calls for personal meetings with students to talk about attendance and threshold where students and parents will then need to meet with admin. Attendance secretaries are doing this. Currently they have done about 600 of these meetings. Meetings with admin and parents have been about 62 These meetings are time consuming but they help to identify student needs and are causing them to be late or not in attendance, i.e. health issues, anxiety, depression, a divorce at home, etc. This helps to connect students with resources available, and hopefully will improve attendance.
- Concerns were raised by committee members about knowing why a student was absent. The school cannot control why a parent keeps a student home, but helping to make parents aware of the need to call in to excuse an absence may play into the number of unexcused absences. We want to make school a positive place for students.

b. Check & Connect - Michelle Douglas and Rachel Felsing

- Official name of the district is Student Intervention Mentors. Their role is to help promote students' active participation in school and learning. They meet individually with students weekly or bi-weekly to discuss attendance, academics, progress, behavior, importance of education and for areas of concern, they problem solve together to look for possible solutions. They work with students who are at risk or students whose grades, attendance and behavior are at a lower than average level or those who need extra support for a temporary amount of time. They do not typically work with students on IEP due to the fact that they already have accommodations.
- Students are referred by SST (Student Support Team) based on the criteria that the student is credit deficient in multiple classes, they need academic support and are failing multiple courses or classes, they need temporary emotional support, mental breaks and other circumstantial situations.
- Exit criteria is that they have passed classes for two consecutive quarters and their attendance percentage has gone up. Another exit reason is that circumstances have changed and they no longer need CC support or they need a higher level of support such as Hawkwatch or an alternative high school or they need more emotional support.
- Over the years the need for CC mentors and their roles have changed. More students are in need of mentoring and help thus causing the workload for CC mentors to increase. Because of this increase, it was determined that the intake/outtake criteria needed to change. A three tier system was implemented, tier 3 being the highest level of intervention, and tier 1 being the least.
- The data provided shows the benefit of CC mentors and a decrease in number of students off-track.
- Currently the CC mentors are working with 77 students. They have room for a few more. There are 576 students that are off track and would qualify for the CC program. There is a great need. Students are exhibiting greater anxiety and mental health issues, lack of motivation, etc. CC is working with these students to help overcome some of these issues. CC mentors are student advocates.

- The state has limited the number of students per mentor to 50. Fifty is a high number for a CC mentor. It is hard to find a time to meet with students. The goal is to have students in class so pulling them out of class to meet with them is difficult. CC mentors look at using advisory or online classes or try to have them as an aide to give them extra time to work on core classes. The number of students in the program constantly fluctuates as students move up and down the tier system.
  - Parent involvement differs depending on the desire parents have to be involved. An email is sent to parents informing them of the enrollment in the program, and keeping them updated with assignment lists, etc.
- c. Hawk Watch
- 24 students currently enrolled. Data being tracked in hawkwatch is tardies, absences and percentage of classes students are passing. Hawkwatch is designed to give students a little more time during the school day to focus on things Check & Connect is helping them with. Still need to collect more data on this.
- d. Early Warning System
- Gives us a portrait of student attendance, grades, suspensions, discipline referrals, etc.
  - This data helps identify students who are off-track and may need intervention of some kind.
- e. Discipline
- Majority of discipline is related to tobacco/marijuana. 10% related to disruptions in the school. We don't have a lot of fighting on our campus. Last year 21% of discipline issues were tied to drugs.

### **VIII. Graduation 22-23 – Mr. Rowley**

- Huntsman Center U of U – Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am

### **IX. Teacher of the Year Nominations – Mr. Rowley**

- Teacher nominations are now live <https://www.canyonsdistrict.org/general-news/csd-begins-taking-nominations-for-2023-teacher-of-the-year/>
- Nominations close the end of February

### **X. 23-24 Land Trust Plan progress – Mr. Rowley**

- Taking longer than anticipated to finalize plans for next year. BLT is sharing plan with their departments. Conversations are ongoing about what is proficiency and the use of data and what data is important to look at and use. It's been a learning curve for everyone. The goal is to have the goals reach down into every classroom and make it something the teachers are focused on throughout the year.
- Rough draft should be available to present in February, with March and April being used to work through the details.

### **XI. Other Items**

- Evacuation in January was a really great training exercise. Timing came into play because it was 10 minutes into second lunch and many students had left the campus. Because of this, it was determined to close the main entrance to keep people away from the suspicious backpack. When cameras showed 3 backpacks instead of 1, evacuation became the only option. Once the person of interest was located and interviewed, it was determined that there was no threat.
  - The school has an active shooter plan, but it is hard to practice which is one reason this situation was a valuable learning tool. There are areas that need improvement, such as contacting the seminary, how to make substitute teachers aware of processes and procedures, and making sure all teachers and staff are educated to know their responsibilities.
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- A motion was made to adjourn: Jeff Colemere
  - Seconded: Merinda Cutler
  - All voted in favor
  - Meeting adjourned: 4:37pm

**Next Meeting:**

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 3:15pm Hawk Gallery