



# Alta High School

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## SCC Minutes September 25, 2023

Attending: Ken Rowley, Kory Crockett, Katie Christensen, Nicole Harman, Navina Forsythe, Nele Ofisa, SBO JJ Gardner, SBO Bo Bjerregaard, Tess Hortin, Callie Bjerregaard, Merinda Cutler, Erin Black

Not in Attendance: Kjersti Barlow, Krista Anderson, Katie Atkinson

### I. Welcome

Called to Order: 3:16 by Katie Christensen

#### a. Introductions

### II. SBO Update/Report

- The theme for this year is “Alta Lets Fly,” meaning going after it as a community and getting to our end goals
- Homecoming went well with approximately 1100 students attending the dance.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Make a Wish - this is a big part of what the SBOs do. They still do not know who the recipient will be, but they are working on that. This includes a fundraiser for the recipient.
  - Veterans Day Program - Alta received the George Washington Medal of Freedom from the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation. The award will be accepted in February on behalf of the school. A lot of work is put into this assembly throughout the year, so it's nice to be recognized.
  - Fall sports are going on. Teams going to state include girls tennis, football, cross country, and boys golf. We want to support them.
  - Nele Ofisa suggested having SBO students on the field taking pictures during games, specifically football, and creating a shared drive on google. Need to include yearbook staff as well and suggest having someone from the yearbook staff at the games taking pictures.

### III. SCC Expectations and Responsibilities

- Hopefully everyone has been to training. If not, there is one more opportunity this coming Wednesday. Hopefully you can make that work.
- Briefly went over our role as a SCC, what is included in that role and what is not because that can be a little confusing. There are four deliverables that

have to be produced every year with deadlines. Those are:

- Land Trust - how to spend our Land Trust money. That money needs to be tied to educational achievements. Deadline is April.
- TSSP - a plan to spend that money as well. Principal Rowley helps with whatever needs the school may have that are important to the school.
- School Safety Plan - This has to be done and submitted by December
- Digital Citizenship Plan - Due in December
- Last year Principal Rowley had school employees who were working on those plans come in and present to the SCC. That was very helpful. In the past, the committee may not have always understood what those plans included and why. This was a way to clarify what those plans are and where we are putting money and ensuring it is directed towards things we care about. All of this is directed by Principal Rowley and his team since they know what is needed and the details of these plans.
- We can also be ambassadors to the community and those around us to help promote the good things happening at the school and maybe bring concerns as we are made aware of them.
- We can also function as a sounding board for Principal Rowley as he presents things he may have concerns on or be thinking about. We can give feedback to him about those ideas. We are not a decision making committee in those areas, however, we are just an advisory committee.
- The committee can bring concerns and Principal Rowley is always willing to address those as well, but our main role is to produce the aforementioned plans. Those deliverables are published on the school website under the School Community Council tab.

#### IV. Election of SCC Vice Chair

Kory Crockett was nominated by Nele Ofisa

Seconded by: Ken Rowley

Unanimous vote to approve

#### V. PTSA Update

- The PTSA fed teachers once already this year and will be feeding again tomorrow for parent teacher conferences
- The PTSA is looking for volunteers for hearing and screening
- PTSA membership was down from 700 to 325 last year. This year, membership is not even at 200. They hope to get more staff to join. Trying to get the word out about PTSA to increase membership. The biggest reason to increase membership is communication and letting families know about what is happening at the school and also to solicit volunteers
- The PTSA had their first student meeting last week. 30 students came. They are hoping to have at least 15 continue through the year
- Hawk Hero will be continuing this year. The first Hawk Heroes will be awarded next week. The PTSA will go into advisory classes to present the awards, two students from each grade. There is a flier posted around the

school about Hawk Hero and how to nominate students. It is also on the school announcement board, and in the PTSA newsletter. It is a good way to spotlight students who often go unnoticed. It has been very successful and positive

- The next PTSA meeting will be held on October 4th, in Alumni Room
- The PTSA will be holding a no fuss fundraiser again this year. The big push for that will be the last week of October
- The Hawk Stash is still up and running this year. There was a big increase in need at the end of last year and a big need for this year is being anticipated as well. The PTSA is planning on doing a food drive in November with a specific list of items needed, such as: small boxes of cereal and fruit snacks. They have to be things easy for students to take and eat during the day (pull top cans), and things they like. Counselors, teachers, social workers, hall monitors, etc., have access to the Hawk Stash and can take students there to get food if they are hungry. The school also has had money donated by past classes that can be used to purchase clothes or other items needed by students.
- PTSA memberships can be dropped off in the Main Office or can be done online with a QR code published on fliers. Membership is \$10.

#### VI. Counseling Corner

- Multicultural Week will be held October 9-14, concluding with a dance. The dance theme will be the Day of the Dead and the proceeds will benefit LIA
- Senior PCCRs just took place
- October 16-18 is College Application week. Seniors will have links on canvas on how to apply to colleges with links to applications for colleges. Most colleges waive their application fees during application week. The counselors are trying to help students understand that there is something for everyone during this week depending on if they are only interested in getting a certification or going to a tech college. It isn't just for students going to a 4 year university. The ACT test is not required for college entrance right now. It is required by some universities for scholarships, but not for registration
- AP registration needs to be done by November 13. The school will charge late fees after that because we are charged late fees. Students can get a refund for a test if they end up not taking it. That is easy. But it is not easy to take a test that hasn't been registered for.
- The PSAT is on October 23. That test is full. It is for 10th and 11th graders. National Merit Scholars have to take the PSAT. We have two students who took the test as 11th graders last year and now as seniors, are National Merit finalists
- There is an in-house therapist MWF. Currently she has space to see more students.

#### VII. Advisory & Intervention

- Advisory has shifted this year, based on the needs of students. In previous years, students were going to classes where they felt they needed extra help.

Attendance became an issue. Students were not taking advantage of the extra time and it became a real issue with vandalism in the bathrooms and other things. This year, to make it a better use of time, the faculty and admin determined that during advisory students would remain in their assigned classrooms and would have academic discussions, such as how to advocate for yourself, how to study properly, etc. It has been working well

- Intervention is the time when students can get extra help. Engagement time is before school when students can meet with their teachers starting at 7:15, and after school they can meet with their teachers by appointment. The team would like feedback from parents on this new approach to advisory.
- Tess Hortin has heard feedback from other parents that advisory is a total waste of time now that students cannot use that time for intervention.
- Katie Christensen asked if there is a connection between teachers who use the time as directed and those who don't, in how well the program is working. Kory Crockett responded that they have turned the advisory over to teacher peers. This seems to be helping to get more teachers on board
- Intervention is still happening 1-2 days each week during advisory. It is taking place in the assigned advisory classroom instead of going to another room.
- This is helping to build relationships between the advisory teacher and the student. Studies have shown that those relationships are important and beneficial to students. It gives another non-academic adult checking in on students that can help the counselors as well to check on students who may be struggling

#### VIII. ACT Data

- ACT and AP scores are back up to pre-covid levels. There has been a drop in the number of students taking the ACT since it is no longer required for college admission

#### IX. Advanced Placement (AP) Data

- Students scoring 3 and above has increased
- Number of students taking AP tests is stagnant - ACT going down because it is no longer required for college admission
- AP testing has also dropped somewhat because of programs like online classes and Step 2 the U, but student enrollment in classes is going up this year so it is anticipated that the number of AP tests taken will also go up
- Looking through the data presented, Alta scores pretty well compared to UT schools and well even compared to national scores

#### X. AHS focus (PBIS, MTSS, PLC, Advisory) – Mr. Rowley

Positive Behavior Intervention Support, Multi-Tier Systems of Support, Professional Learning Communities, Advisory

- Breakout sessions with each of the administrators for teachers and counselors in these four areas were held. Wanted to get back to the basics and provide an opportunity for the staff to get to know the new admin better. Wanted the teachers to see the admin as instructional leaders as well. This

seemed to be very positive and helped to put the whole team on the same page

XI. Step2TheU Update – Mr. Rowley

- The U of U is putting this year's application process on pause and doing a review of the processes. Because of this, there will not be a cohort from Alta nor Jordan going to the Step 2 the U this coming year. The concern is that the program will not be brought back because of money from the U. Mr. Rowley and Brian McGill are working together to work with the university to encourage the continuation of this program

XII. Other Items

- The next SCC meeting has been moved to the

Moved to adjourn: Nicole Harman at 4:17

Seconded: Merinda Cutler

Next Meeting:

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 3:15pm - (Digital Citizenship Plan) and School Safety Plan