

DPMS SCC Meeting Notes - October 21, 2020, 3:00-4:45. This meeting was held over Zoom.

SCC Members Present: Chip Watts, Allyson Dunbar, Emily Ord, Megan Gebhard, Nate Ricks, Terri Francis, Holly Neibaur, Jen Morris, Robin Perry, Casey Ryan, Cynthia Lloyd, Kevin Rothert, Suzanne Quick, Marianne Barrowes, Chad Smith

SCC Members Absent: N/A

Staff and Community Members Present: Randall Seltz, Kristana Price, Jodi Roberts, Kathy Anderson, Brooke Peterson

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Marianne Barrowes
 - a. Ms. Barrowes welcomed everyone and started the meeting.
2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes & Nomination Procedure Correction - Marianne Barrowes
 - a. ***Ms. Barrowes made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The SCC voted unanimously to accept the meeting minutes.***
 - b. Mr. Watts explained that the nomination process for Ms. Gebhard didn't follow the established procedure when Ms. Roberts made a motion. She's not a voting member of the SCC and isn't eligible to make a nomination or a motion.
 - c. ***Ms. Barrowes made a motion to accept the nomination of Ms. Gebhard as co-chair. Ms. Dunbar made a second. The SCC voted unanimously to accept the nomination.***
3. Comment from Kathy Anderson
 - a. Ms. Anderson thanked the council for discussing the safety issue she brought up at the previous meeting. She shared some of the updates that have happened since the discussion.
4. DPMS Covid-19 Update - Dr. Watts
 - a. Dr. Watts shared an update on the current COVID case counts at DPMS. He said as a staff, we've been reminding students about our safety protocols and they've been doing a great job following them.
 - b. Dr. Watts said the number of disposable masks we've been handing out to students has increased significantly recently. We have additional cloth masks for students that will be dispersed during the second quarter.
 - c. Mr. Smith asked if we have any staff members out due to COVID. Dr. Watts said we have a few staff members out on quarantine, but none with positive cases.
 - d. Dr. Watts said we received positive feedback from the school board about our teachers' online teaching and instruction during the two-week temporary school closure.
5. Counselor's Corner Update - Megan Gebhard
 - a. Ms. Gebhard presented the following information:
 - i. A review of the names and roles of the staff who work in the Student Center. She introduced Carolyn Feffer, our new 4th counselor. She also discussed how we've adjusted the format of how counselors are assigned to students. We used to use a grade-level model, where one counselor was assigned to a grade-level. Now, it is an alphabetical model.
 - ii. A highlight of the lessons the counselors have taught in the 6th grade classrooms since the beginning of the school year. They tackled topics about managing stress, getting organized, and setting up routines to be successful.
 - iii. Club Thursday is up and running. It has been really fun and successful so far. We've received a lot of positive feedback about Club Thursday from stakeholders.
 - iv. The counselors are doing mini CCR's with the 7th grade students. Opportunities were offered to online students to connect with a counselor for these meetings.

- v. The 8th grade College and Career Readiness meetings are being adjusted to comply with COVID safety guidelines. They will include the same information, but will be structured differently. Most information will be delivered through an interactive Canvas module. Parents will have an opportunity to sign up for a 15-minute virtual meeting with a counselor.
 - vi. The topics of the Kindness Campaign lessons that students learn about throughout the year.
 - vii. The Student Center collaborated with the journalism classes to provide information on Suicide Prevention Month.
- b. Ms. Neibaur asked if attendance has declined at our Club Thursdays. Ms. Gebhard said participation is high and we've had waitlists.
 - c. Ms. Neibaur asked if the Student Center could focus on digital citizenship in a Kindness Campaign lessons. Ms. Gebhard said they would consider adding topics about digital citizenship to the curriculum.
 - d. Mr. Smith commented: I noticed that having parent volunteers would allow us to accommodate more students for this. I imagine some potential parent volunteers are in the same boat I am: willing to volunteer, but unavailable if our kid isn't also at Club Thursday (because I need to pick her up from school). Maybe I can offline this discussion, but thought I'd let you know. Especially since Club Thursday has been sold out before the email announcement even goes out to parents.
 - e. Ms. Francis commented: We should reach out to our PTSA for help with volunteers.
 - f. Ms. Lloyd said it seems like the same students are being selected to participate in Club Thursday every week. She asked if there was a way to make sure a variety of kids can participate.
 - g. Ms. Gebhard thanked them for the feedback and said she would take the feedback back to the counselors.
 - h. Dr. Watts said this discussion may continue into the next agenda item in the meeting.

6. TSSA and Land Trust Budget Items - Dr. Watts

- a. Dr. Watts said the TSSA/Land Trust plan was written last year before the global pandemic. As a result of some of the recent changes, such as the school district providing a Chromebook to every student, we'll need to make some amendments to the plan to spend the money in ways that will impact student achievement.
- b. Dr. Watts reviewed the current Land Trust allocations for each subject (ELA, math, science) and which budget items need to be adjusted.
- c. Math Plan – Dr. Watts
 - i. A significant amount of money was set aside for “tech for open-up resources.” Dr. Watts asked Ms. Lloyd if she could share what kinds of supports or supplies she feels the math department would need.
 - ii. Ms. Lloyd talked about “boogie boards,” which are boards students can write math problems and answers on.
- d. Science Plan – Dr. Watts
 - i. Several thousand dollars were allocated for Chromebooks. In place of Chromebooks, the plan needs to spend \$123,000.
 - ii. In place of Chromebooks, we could fund some of the additional teacher prep periods to reduce class sizes. Dr. Watts said the current average class sizes are high-20s to mid-30s. This will cost about \$50,000 for the whole year.
 - iii. Dr. Watts said the next thing that could happen is to start a teacher tech rotation. We have several teacher computers that are 5-6 years old and sometimes struggle to run the most up-to-date software. We need to make sure they have the tech they need in order to support our students. This will cost about \$30,000.
- e. Other Possible Supplies and Supports – Dr. Watts
 - i. A subscription to SORA, which provides students with electronic access to novels for ELA class, would cost about \$7,500.

- ii. Purchasing more math manipulatives for about \$4,500.
 - iii. Science teachers have asked about an online subscription to GIZMOS, which provides students with online science simulations. That would cost \$5,400.
 - iv. Headphones with microphones for AAPPL testing would cost \$1,200.
 - v. Blue light filters and glasses for teachers would cost \$800.
 - vi. Lunch activities and a storage cabinet for the supplies would cost \$2,500.
 - vii. Dr. Watts suggested we could also use some of the money to fund and possibly expand Club Thursday programs.
 - viii. In place of field trips, \$2,500, the 6th grade teachers are currently brainstorming ways they could use the money to support their students.
 - ix. In place of data and collaboration days, \$15,600, one proposal is to pay core teachers to collaborate off contract time.
- f. General Discussion about TSSA/Land Trust Amendments
- i. Ms. Lloyd asked setting aside some money for Chromebook repairs since so many students are already struggling with broken cameras, keyboards, cracked screens, etc. Dr. Watts said we've ordered a reserve of Chromebooks to replace old machines and to provide to students in the event their device needs extensive repairs. Those have been ordered, but we're not sure when they are coming.
 - ii. Ms. Ryan asked about Chromebook cases and chargers. Dr. Watts said the school district ordered neoprene sleeves for every computer and they should show up any day now. We also ordered extra chargers, anticipating there would be a need there.
 - iii. Ms. Perry asked if it was possible to get the budget numbers that Dr. Watts reviewed in writing. Several members agreed. Dr. Watts asked Mr. Seltz to email the presentation to the council. Mr. Seltz also added the presentation to the SCC portion of the DPMS website.
 - iv. Ms. Perry asked if there is any leniency in the carryover amount. Dr. Watts said no.
 - v. Ms. Perry expressed concern that the TSSA funding and the Land Trust monies are allocated according to the procedure set by the state so that the school's money is not in jeopardy.
 - vi. Ms. Neibaur said she has a concern about SORA, where students would have to be on a device to access the novel. She is concerned about the amount of screen time her students have.
 - vii. Ms. Neibaur said she is also interested in seeing how the school can support students who are approaching proficiency, but haven't hit proficiency. She recommended hiring more classroom teacher aides to support those students.
 - viii. Ms. Ord said she would prefer have the school purchase paper copies of books rather than the SORA subscription.
 - ix. Ms. Lloyd said one thing to consider is that students don't have lockers this year and carrying paper books adds to the weight of the backpacks. She also said that there are a lot of absent students this year and being able to provide digital copies to students helps increase access. She said she believes this is a short-term shift.
 - x. Ms. Palmer said she thinks it's important to listen to what the teachers are asking for. She said the SCC discussed streaming instruction during the last meeting and asked if we could prioritize purchasing the technology to make that possible.
 - xi. Ms. Neibaur said she thinks it is important to replace teacher computers so they can access more robust programs.
 - xii. Ms. Neibaur said the middle school did a great job with the pivot to online learning during the 2 week closure. She thanked Ms. Lloyd for her extra efforts to reach out to students. She said we have added registration fees to pay for the math workbooks. Ms. Neibaur said another way we could spend the additional funding is to pay for those books so parents don't have to pay for the workbooks.

7. School Climate Survey Results from Last Year – Dr. Watts

- a. Dr. Watts reviewed the DPMS SCC Digital Safety Plan Follow Up document from the previous school year. The document demonstrates how the school and SCC addressed the items the SCC identified.
- b. Ms. Ord said she was on the Digital Citizenship Committee last year and helped plan the activities. She said she feels the school needs to review the cell phone policy and see if it applies to our school now that we're a 1:1 school. She said students need more time away from screens and that many parents are concerned about cyberbullying. She contacted local middle schools to see what their cell phone policies are. Butler Middle and Eastmont Middle have an all-day ban on student cell phone use. Granite Jr. High also has a ban on cell phones in the classroom, during passing time, and at lunch time.
- c. Ms. Ord said she has reviewed the cell phone policy and would like to review the policy as a council.
- d. Ms. Gebhard said we should table this discussion until the next meeting so we have the time to fully discuss all points of view.
- e. Ms. Quick asked about the prevalence of cyber bullying last year and if the cell phone policy has caused a decrease in cyberbullying this year.
- f. Ms. Gebhard said the cell phone policy came as the result of the survey we sent to the stakeholders (parents, teachers, and students) last year.
- g. Item 2 is adjusting the school start time. That's something we have to take to the school board.
- h. Item 3 is fostering an environment of inclusivity at the school - our student center provides many programs and lessons that promote an environment of inclusion.
- i. Item 4 is prioritizing a single point of entry to the school. We've updated our visitor check-in procedure to make sure everyone checks in on a computer and receives a visitor sticker.

8. School Start Time Adjustment - Marianne Barrowes/Dr. Watts

- a. Ms. Neibaur suggested that the school board is very busy with handling all of the changes resulting from the changing conditions of the pandemic and their impacts on schools. She recommended waiting until January to address the issue with the board.
- b. Mr. Smith asked if we might consider passing a motion now to send a statement to the school board about the council's interest in changing the school start time.
- c. Ms. Francis commented: When the topic goes to the board, their first question will be, "How does the SCC feel about this?" So, it helps for us to address and make a resolution on it.

9. Motion to End the Meeting

- a. ***Dr. Watts made a motion to close the meeting. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***