

***DPMS SCC Meeting Notes - November 18, 2020, 3:00-4:25. This meeting was held over Zoom.***

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

**SCC Members Absent:** Robin Perry, Casey Ryan (excused)

**Staff and Community Members Present:** Randall Seltz, Kristana Price, Jodi Roberts, Kylie Arbon

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Approve of October Meeting Minutes – Marianne Barrowes
  - a. Ms. Barrowes welcomed everyone and started the meeting.
  - b. ***Ms. Barrowes made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Ms. Gebhard made a second. The vote was unanimous in favor of approving the notes.***
  
2. Counselor's Corner Update - Megan Gebhard
  - a. Ms. Gebhard presented about some of the groups the Student Center has been running. Parents should reach out to their child's counselor if they are interested in having them involved in a group.
  - b. Ms. Gebhard presented more information on how CCR's will work for our 8th grade students this year.
  
3. Covid-19 Update - Dr. Chip Watts
  - a. DPMS' current active COVID-19 case count is 14. There are approximately 60 students and 13 faculty members on quarantine.
  
4. School Living Leader Update - Dr. Chip Watts
  - a. Each CSD school chooses a Living Leader who helps plan events for faculty that encourage a healthy lifestyle. DPMS is doing a Virtual 5K right now.
  
5. Review/Update Bylaws & Adopt - Marianne Barrowes
  - a. Ms. Francis discussed some of the formatting requirements for bylaws.
  - b. Ms. Barrowes discussed several of the edits to the bylaws she and Ms. Francis made. The updates bring the bylaws into compliance with the district and state expectations. The edits also helped create an organizational structure that is easier to follow.
  - c. Ms. Barrowes made the suggestion to add a December meeting to the SCC schedule.
  - d. Ms. Barrowes made a motion to move the December SCC meeting to either the first or second week of the month.
  - e. ***Ms. Francis made a motion to move the December SCC meeting to December 2. Ms. Barrowes made a second. The SCC voted unanimously in favor of the motion.***
  - f. Ms. Barrowes suggested edits to Section 10 of the bylaws, which addresses the work the SCC does.
  - g. Ms. Francis suggested adding a clause in Section 10 that allows the SCC to discuss more items that the CSD School Board asks the SCC to address.
  - h. Ms. Barrowes said the clause at the beginning of the document leaves the door open to discuss more items as they come up and are pertinent to the council.
  - i. ***Ms. Gebhard made a motion to accept the bylaws as edited. Mr. Smith made a second to the motion. The council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.***

6. Review/Update Cell Phone Policy - Emily Ord

- a. Ms. Ord discussed the survey the SCC sent the community last year when the school was crafting their current cell phone policy. The number one concern parents wrote in was about cyberbullying and digital citizenship.
- b. Ms. Ord discussed the cell phone policies at other middle schools, including Granite Park MS, Butler MS, and Eastmont MS. Administrators at other schools report that the policy works for their students and their community.
- c. Ms. Ord discussed several reasons why she believes personal electronic devices are distracting and not appropriate for students to have at school. She referenced several sources that support her position.
- d. Ms. Neibaur thanked Ms. Ord for her work on this issue. She referenced the survey results from the SCC survey last year. She said parents don't often realize how much screen time students get at school. She praised Principal Paula Logan for her approach.
- e. Ms. Lloyd said she appreciates Ms. Ord's work. She said students use headphones in math to get help with reading the questions.
- f. Ms. Gebhard said our students who are in-person are not on their screens all day.
- g. Dr. Watts said he spoke to Principal Logan also and it took several years for the school to move in this direction. It wasn't an overnight move. It took many years to educate parents and students about why a shift in this direction is a good move.
- h. Ms. Barrowes asked if the SCC should launch a subcommittee to explore ways to engage and educate parents about cell phone use and screen time for middle school students.
- i. Ms. Neibaur said that the sooner our SCC moves in this direction the better.
- j. Mr. Smith said he loves the idea of following the model of Butler, including community education. It seems like it has worked really well for them, and we don't need to reinvent the wheel.
- k. Ms. Barrowes said we need to get some parent education events in place.
- l. Ms. Roberts said she values the input of our school community. Last year, we surveyed the parents, students, and teachers. As a school, we gave all stakeholders the opportunity to weigh in and share their thoughts. We worked with the BLT, PTA, and SCC to craft the current cell phone policy that reflects the feedback we heard from all stakeholders.
- m. Ms. Ord said our community is looking for solutions to cyberbullying and digital citizenship issues. So, what is our solution?
- n. Ms. Roberts said so far this year, we've had 3 cyberbullying incidents reported, and none of them occurred at school. She said several students receive calls and texts from their parents throughout the school day. Several students also use their phones to monitor health related data, like insulin pumps.
- o. Ms. Francis proposed that each of us speak to people in the community, those both like us and unlike us in terms of opinions about technology, and bring that feedback back for a discussion.
- p. Ms. Barrowes said it is important to take the pulse of the community, not necessarily gather buy in for a change.
- q. Ms. Neibaur said parents have already told the school and SCC that cyberbullying is a top concern.
- r. Dr. Watts shared the results of the survey from last year. About 64% of parents said they preferred their student able to use their phone during lunch or passing period.
- s. Ms. Neibaur asked Dr. Watts to share the results of the school safety survey where parents identified digital citizenship or cyberbullying as a top concern.
- t. Ms. Quick said that she is involved with working with students at the elementary level who will be DPMS students in the future, and their parents are more concerned about cell phone use than the students currently at DPMS.
- u. Mr. Smith said [it] seems like the Butler Middle model was initiated by the administration, bringing the faculty and SCC/PTA on board early, and then conducting education for the community more gradually. It doesn't surprise him that Chip said this took a while to prepare.
- v. Mr. Smith said I worry that just going with a survey without more context (and even direction) will be all over the place and not very actionable.
- w. Ms. Barrowes tabled the discussion until next month and asked everyone to reach out to community members and gather feedback about their perception of the cell phone policy.
- x. Ms. Neibaur suggested that Ms. Ord send the information she compiled to Ms. Gebhard so she can incorporate some of that into future communications with the school community. Ms. Arbon also asked to be included.

7. Review Digital Citizenship & School Safety Report from District - Dr. Chip Watts
  - a. Ms. Arbon said normally there is a big meeting with everyone in the school district who works with the Digital Citizenship Plan, but that hasn't been announced for this year yet.
  - b. Ms. Barrowes asked if community outreach and parent involvement is a part of our school plan.
  - c. Ms. Arbon said yes, we communicate with parents monthly and she maintains a website. She also works with the PTA for White Ribbon Week events.
  - d. Ms. Barrowes asked if we could coordinate a speaker to address the community about issues related to digital citizenship.
  - e. Ms. Francis said she is aware of a number of resources available through Utah PTA. Perhaps it would be best if everyone does a little research and we can discuss the issue again next month.
  
8. Review Locker Use Policy - possible update for winter? - Terri Francis
  - a. Ms. Francis said that parents are concerned that students do not want to wear their coats because they have no place to store them. She asked if the school has a plan for lockers.
  - b. Dr. Watts said that it has been a conversation among our administration about whether we should allow lockers. Initially, there were a lot of concerns about congestion in the hallways and kids being in more close proximity to each other or transmitting the virus through touching more surfaces.
  - c. Ms. Francis asked if students who wanted a locker could apply for a locker, so there wasn't a need to assign a locker to everyone.
  - d. Ms. Gebhard said many teachers are worried about the virus spreading and the case counts.
  - e. Mr. Seltz said we've staggered the bell schedule to try to reduce congestion in the hallways and it seems there are fewer kids in the hallways during passing time.
  - f. Dr. Watts said he would take this up to the school district to see what guidance they offer about which direction to move in.
  
9. School Start Time Adjustment - form subcommittee to report back to SCC in January - Marianne Barrowes
  - a. Ms. Barrowes said she wants to form a subcommittee to look into what it would take to adjust our school's start to later in the morning.
  - b. Ms. Neibaur asked Dr. Watts if he had heard back from the Transportation Department about a financial impact study about what the change in start time would cost.
  - c. Dr. Watts said the Director of Transportation told him he conducted a study last year and that the way to approach this problem is to ask the Canyons Board of Education to adjust the start time of the school.
  - d. Ms. Neibaur said the Canyons Board is inundated with their response to the changing conditions of COVID-19. It might make more sense to wait until January to approach the board.
  - e. Ms. Barrowes formed a subcommittee with several members of the council.
  
10. Budget Update - Dr. Chip Watts
  - a. Dr. Watts is going to write up the amendment so it can be presented to the Canyons Board of Education. Members of the council will have to come into the school to sign the paper that goes to the school board.

***11. Ms. Gebhard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Neibaur made a second. The motion passed unanimously.***

These meeting notes were approved at the December 2, 2020 meeting.