

*DPMS SCC Meeting Notes - February 23, 2022, 2:45-4:40.*

**SCC Members Present:** Chip Watts, Nate Ricks, Terri Francis, Marianne Barrowes, Janene Day, Shandra Brown, Kerstin Olcott, Jen Morris, Chantal Rigg, Emily Ord, Vanessa Croshaw, Cynthia Lloyd, Jenn Muir, Suzanne Quick, Megan Gebhard

**Staff and Community Members Present:** Randall Seltz, Kristana Price, Mark Mitchell, Alisa Brough, Kait Ball, Amanda Oaks, Holly Neibaur, Kim Oldroyd, Edie Goodrich, Leon Wilcox, Dr. Rick Robins, Susan Edwards, Cindy Hansen

1. Welcome & Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes - Marianne Barrowes
  - a. *Ms. Day made a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting. Ms. Morris made the second. The motion passed unanimously.*
  
2. Counselor's Corner - Megan Gebhard
  - a. Ms. Gebhard shared several indicators that she has gathered pertaining to student GPA, attendance, discipline referrals, and grades.
  - b. Ms. Gebhard said on average, more students are missing more days of school.
  - c. Ms. Lloyd said the number of students who have missed more than 20 days of school this year has greatly increased from previous years.
  - d. Dr. Watts asked if students are doing their work when they are on vacation or absent from school. The teachers on the council said most students are not logging in to do any work if they are not at school.
  - e. Ms. Gebhard said the increase in absenteeism could be attributed to the increase in students experiencing mental health support.
  - f. Ms. Gebhard said the academic achievement data shows that students have started to rebound from all of the school closures caused by COVID 19. There was an increase in the number of students who are on track in the GPA category of the Early Warning Signs.
  - g. Ms. Gebhard also reported on the number of students who have an educational release for 1st period. During semester 1, 334 students opted out of 1st period. During semester 2, 415 students opted out of 1st period.
  - h. Ms. Gebhard reviewed the interventions that the school has implemented to address the increase in students with academic and attendance problems.
  - i. Ms. Francis commended the counselors for the way they supported her student and family during a difficult time.
  - j. Ms. Croshaw asked how the counselors determine which students they do home visits for. Ms. Gebhard explained the continuum of support services the school staff are trained to provide.
  
3. Start Time Update - Marianne Barrowes
  - a. Dr. Robins addressed the SCC and talked about how difficult these conversations can be but reiterated the importance of keeping the focus on our shared concern for our students and their well being.
  - b. Dr. Robins discussed the process of working on the Strategic Vision for the district.
  - c. Ms. Neibaur thanked many people in the room for their dedication to listening and working together to overcome many of the issues that have happened at the school. She commended district, school, and community leaders.
  - d. Ms. Oaks discussed the process the board has taken to review the start times of many schools and the impact that changing those times may have throughout the district.

4. Teacher Retention and Elective Opportunities - Dr. Chip Watts

- a. Dr. Watts started by saying that talking about some of the issues that have become controversial within the school community is a lot like the song “We Don’t Talk About Bruno” from Encanto. There are a lot of things we “don’t talk about,” like schedule changes, electives, and other topics. But, people do talk about them, and sometimes those conversations are based more on perceptions than reality. The purpose of talking about these topics today is to listen and learn.
- b. Dr. Watts discussed when Mr. Giddings left DPMS for a Band Director position in Park City School District.
- c. Dr. Watts discussed the Canyons District Board Policy for changing the school schedule.
- d. Dr. Watts discussed the other ways the school administration has worked to ensure teachers have the access to supplies and resources that they need to do their jobs.
- e. Dr. Watts discussed the survey that Mr. Ricks and the BLT created and sent out to teachers and staff asking for feedback that administration can act on to make working conditions at DPMS even better.
- f. Ms. Day said in regard to Mr. Giddings’ mid-year resignation that she wished the administration would have communicated more to parents about what was happening.
- g. Ms. Barrowes asked if it was true that elective teachers have to advertise their programs to recruit students. Dr. Watts said that the school helps by providing opportunities for students to experience the arts through assemblies.
- h. Mr. Ricks said the teachers at the school love the students and love the work they do at DPMS. Teachers also feel like they have a hard time getting everything done every day with the large class sizes.
- i. Ms. Lloyd said our school is nearly the size of a high school but with the resources of a middle school. Ms. Lloyd said her class sizes are much larger than the classes in many other middle schools.
- j. Ms. Rigg said it’s also important to consider how our community communicates with teachers and staff; sometimes it is accusatory and unproductive in solving the problems that the communication is intending to resolve.

5. Budget Update - Dr. Chip Watts

- a. Dr. Watts said he reviewed the budget reports and we are on track to spend the money we have allocated.

6. Next Year’s TSSP and Land Trust Plan - Dr. Chip Watts

- a. Dr. Watts said he wouldn’t recommend any significant changes for the plan for next year. The most expensive change is combining two 17-hour positions into one 35-hour registrar position.
- b. The interventions and items that we are implementing to support our below benchmark learners are starting to pay off - we have seen some huge growth among our students who fell below benchmark at the end of last year.
- c. Ms. Croshaw said she would like to see the TSSP address students who are excelling at school.

7. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

- a. *Ms. Day made a motion to end the meeting. Ms. Morris made the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

*These meeting minutes were approved at the March 16, 2022 meeting.*