

Dixie High School Community Council

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2013

Members Present: Larry Bergeson, Kevin Simmons, Sheryl Snow, Kay Berry, Janece Gardner, Toni Schroath, Kathryn Anderson, Shauna Challis, Amy Mitchell, Jason Brooks

Items Discussed:

Jason Brooks presented data he had collected regarding the success of Dixie High Rebound program. Before the program was initiated, 8.8 percent of all student grades were F's. In the first years of Rebound, students met with teachers at the end of the school day on Monday, attendance at Rebound hovered around 75%, and the percent of failing grades fell to 6%. However, in order to avoid the effect of an "early out" Monday, Rebound was moved to a lunch program, attendance has increased to 90%, and the percent of failing grades is moving steadily downward, currently at 3.6%. Clearly, the program has had a dramatic effect on the number of failing grades earned, and the newer format and time was a successful change. Jason also analyzed the improvement of student scores on the Biology CRT, comparing the students who participated in a quarter-long test prep class in 2011 with those students who were assigned to 8 consecutive weeks of Rebound in 2012. Test Prep Class students improved at a rate of 47%, while Rebound students improved at a rate of 44%. These comparable percentages were validation that Rebound is an effective structure to provide test remediation and intervention for important concepts. Finally, data also showed that the percent of A's earned by students increased nearly 10% since Rebound has begun, which was an unexpected benefit. It was discussed that the incentive of students to avoid a Rebound referral may be a factor in encouraging more students to turn in their assignments and stay current with their work, thereby contributing to higher grades at all levels. Finally, before Rebound, students earned more F's than D's. After Rebound, students earn more D's than F's. In summary, all data pointed to an overwhelmingly positive impact of the Rebound program at Dixie High.

Mr. Bergeson reported to the Council that the district is looking into the possibility of utilizing a 10-period Block schedule for secondary schools. Although it would not be considered for next year, it could be a possibility for the following year if the decision is made to use this schedule. It has been in use at Enterprise for some time, and it is believed to have resulted in significantly higher test scores in that school. The 10-period Block would allow intervention during the school day, removing the need for programs such as Rebound. It would also increase the

number of elective courses students take, which may boost enrollment in courses in the arts and CTE.

Mr. Bergeson also reported that the Safety Committee at the District has approved the ROTC students acting as crossing guards, as long as they wear orange reflective vests. Also, steps are still being taken to provide containers with warning flags which students can carry as they walk across 700 South. Sheryl Snow expressed concern that these measure will not help with safety concerns over night crossings for evening performances and events. Mr. Bergeson explained that these are the only measures which can be taken for now.

Sharla Campbell presented the proposed plan for State Trust Land funds for school year 2013-14. The plan lists two goals that trust land funds will support. Those goals are: 1) improve student learning in math, science, and language arts; and 2) assist students to complete high school and enhance college preparation. To meet these goals, the plan includes continuing financial support for math tutoring, Rebound, Ambassadors, Science Olympiad, staff development, PLAN test, ACT test prep, and a web-based instructional program called "Brain Pops." Kay Berry encouraged the school to consider programs such as "Utah Write" to help students improve writing skills. Mr. Bergeson will look into that possibility, but it will not be included in this year's plan, since the priority remains improving student CRT scores in math. Two periods of math lab instruction will be included in the budget to provide support for students who will be enrolled in Secondary Math 3 next year. Kathryn Anderson moved to approve the plan, as proposed. Toni Schroath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

On a last note of information, Mr. Bergeson reported that District priority funds were approved for several improvements to the physical campus of Dixie High. These are T-5 lighting for the gym, replacement of air conditioning units in the vocational building, and replacement of the wall coverings in the small gym.

Sheryl Snow requested that this meeting be held earlier in the day. It was agreed that we will convene the meeting at 3:30 p.m., rather than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, which will be the final meeting of the school year.