

## **Dixie High Community Council Minutes**

**October 9, 2012**

**Members Present:** Jennifer Hall, Kathryn Anderson, Sheryl Snow, Clark Whetten, Kay Berry, Kevin Simmons, Larry Bergeson, Jim Bown

### **Items Discussed:**

The Council determined, by a consensus decision, that the Dixie High Community Council would operate with Co-Chairs this year. Persons nominated to serve in these positions were Shauna Challis and Kay Berry. Council members expressed a high degree of confidence in the leadership capacity of these individuals, and the decision to elect these Co-Chairs was unanimous. Shauna Challis was contacted following the meeting and she accepted the position.

In order to familiarize new members with the plan for state trust land funds that was set in place last Spring, the Dixie High goals for improvement were reviewed. Clark Whetten commented on the small amount of the school's allotment from state trust lands funds, and suggested that the Council look at promoting fund raising activities for the school. There is the mechanism to donate funds through the Washington County School District Foundation, which has been established for that purpose. Pam Graff oversees this responsibility at the district office. The Haunted Cave is one example of the work of the foundation. Traditionally, large donations have been made for sports facilities, and occasionally smaller donations have been made to academic programs, such as a recent donation by a local doctor to the Science Department for purchase of lab equipment. Mr. Bergeson was enthusiastic about any effort the Council may wish to dedicate toward this effort.

Mr. Bergeson reviewed the current programs in place to assist students in academic areas. Some Council members reported frustration on the part of their own children in the new Secondary Math 2 Core. Dixie High has been allowed to offer one block class of Secondary Math 2, which meets every day. Students in this class receive more review of previously-covered concepts and have the potential to recover credit for math courses they failed last year, if they successfully pass this class. Kathryn Anderson suggested that the school email parents the schedule for math tutoring, and Mr. Bergeson agreed to do this. Dr. Bown expressed strong support for Math Lab as a class here at Dixie where upper level math students receive extra time and support. Math Lab has shown effective in retaining students in these harder math courses.

Mr. Simmons informed the Council about ACT Prep classes that will be held prior to ACT test dates throughout the year. We have changed the format of these classes so they are held on two days rather than one to improve the quality of instruction the students can receive.

A new program called "Counselor Watch" will be initiated. Counselors will target 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who fail first quarter of Language Arts and/or Math. These students will then meet with counselors to make a plan to succeed and counselors will continue to monitor frequently to encourage them to improve their academic progress. In addition, two programs designed to support students of ethnic minority will function on campus this year: LIA (Latinos in Action), and AIM (for Native American students).

Kathryn Anderson noted a safety concern with the Tonaquint bus parking on the street at 7 a.m. Football players who arrive are running across the street and she feels there is potential for an accident. The Council also discussed the general unsafe condition that exists on 700 South as students cross from the ROTC building to the general campus area. Many have witnessed near-misses as cars continue through the cross walk at top speed. It was the feeling of Council members that the City of St. George could and should provide some warning lights and other safety measures to slow traffic in this area. School personnel mentioned that the voices of parent groups have proven to be very valuable in soliciting these kinds of changes. Clark Whetten suggested that he could encourage the Football Boosters to begin a campaign to contact city officials, Kevin Simmons agreed to bring the ROTC Booster Club on board, and members of the Community Council felt it was important for them to draft a letter to be sent to Mayor McArthur and other city officials.

The next meeting of the Community Council is scheduled for November 13, 2012.