

Dixie High Community Council

Minutes October 13, 2015

Members Present: Jon Butler, John Williams, Mary Cruz, Dr. Bown, Jennifer Hall, Ginny Nobis, Kari Atkin, Greg Butterfield, Jason Brooks, Sharla Campbell

Item Discussed:

Sharla Campbell provided information to Council members about the school improvement activities that are currently being pursued at Dixie High. These include:

- 1) Teachers are utilizing a teaching/learning cycle in regular classrooms where teachers carefully determine what it is that students need to know, provide direct instruction, receive feedback from students to measure the students' level of learning, then allow time for reteaching and/or enrichment when additional time or support are needed. This has resulted in more students passing classes successfully the first time they attempt the class
- 2) Students are also referred to Rebound where they receive additional instruction outside the regular classroom. Before Rebound was initiated, 8.6% of all grades awarded at Dixie High were failing grades; currently, failing grades account for only 3.6% of all grades. The school believes that Rebound helps many students, on an ongoing basis, be successful.
- 3) Math Support exists through tutoring before and after school with Dixie High teachers, help in our regular classrooms with DSU tutors, and tutoring through Youth Action Alliance. Students are also allowed to register for a Math Lab class where they receive review and reinforcement of concepts covered in Sec Math 2 and Sec Math 3.
- 4) Technology has been greatly enhanced by purchases of Chromebook carts purchased through State Trust Land funds.
- 5) Counselors have helped to develop credit recovery programs for students who fail classes through our Basic Academic Skills class, and also through independent online credit recovery. We also conduct workshops for students on college readiness, FAFSA, understanding how to pay for college, and how to apply for scholarships.

These combined improvement efforts have resulted in an increase in our graduation rate over the past several years from 77% to 94%, our graduation rate for 2015.

Students this year are being asked to proactively work toward being more successful in school through our "X Factor" message. We have communicated to students that they are the "X

Factor,” or the variable that could have the most significant impact on the outcome of their education. Even though the school may offer tutoring or Rebound or other academic supports, these are only effective if the students willingly participate.

Jon Butler informed Council about a new ACT Prep project at Dixie High designed for juniors who will take the ACT test this year. Students have the option of enrolling in this course with Utah Online independently, or being assigned a period to work under the supervision of an aide, or in a classroom with a teacher. It is hoped that this experience will provide good data about how to most effectively deliver ACT prep opportunities to students next year. It is also encouraging that 150 of our 11th graders are asking to participate in this class.

The Council members were informed about a training for Community Councils that will occur on Wednesday, Oct 28 to be held at the WCSD office from 6-8 p.m. Ginny Nobis and Mary Cruz indicated that they would like to participate. Other Council members are welcome to also attend, if their schedules permit.

The next meeting of our Community Council will be held on November 10 at 4 p.m. in the Counseling Conference Room at Dixie High School.