

Dixie High Community Council

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2011

Members Present: Toni Schroath, Kathryn Anderson, Jim Bown, Shauna Challis, Larry Bergeson, Sharla Campbell, Mike Bair, Glenn Whicker, Cody Dupass, Kevin Simmons

Items Discussed: Larry Bergeson reviewed the changes made to the Rebound Program at Dixie High:

- Only four subjects are addressed (math, science, language arts, social studies)
- Students referred to one subject per day
- Rebound is now held during an extended lunch, not at the end of day
- Rebound is scheduled for 4 weeks per quarter (two prior to midterm, and two prior to end of quarter)
- Parents will receive email notification from teachers about Rebound referral

Cody Dupass reported that teachers are finding the new format more effective because it allows time for teachers to work individually with students. Toni Schroath also reported a good response from her son, who is a student at Dixie, and she expressed her support as a parent.

Mr. Bergeson also presented the Council with information about a class that will be offered soon at Dixie. It is called Latinos in Action, which is a program that exists in 58 schools throughout Utah and Idaho. LIA and is designed to provide challenge and support for Latino students. Mr. Bergeson reported that this group of students has characteristically experienced a performance level lower than Caucasian students, but the Latinos in Action program has been successful in fostering a more successful educational experience for this group, in some cases resulting in 100% graduation rates. The program emphasizes culture, service, and education. Burt Myers will be the teacher assigned to the program. Students who qualify for the class must be bilingual, earn a 2.0 or better GPA, have good attendance, and be involved in one extracurricular activity with no notable discipline problems. Mr. Bergeson reported that possible service might include a reading program with younger students, or acting as interpreters at Parent/Teacher Conferences, and all enrolled students will attend a state leadership conference. Dixie High plans to initiate this program in January. Glenn Whicker volunteered to help with the program, if he is needed, since he is bilingual. Cody Dupass also

mentioned she would like to teach an adult English class, if that service is needed for parents. Shauna Challis asked whether the program would be extended to Middle School students, and Mr. Bergeson assured her the intention is for the program to exist at all levels in the Dixie cone site by the beginning of the next school year.

Kevin Simmons discussed the Dixie Honors Program. The district is proposing standardizing the Honor Grad programs in all high schools and providing an Honors diploma for these students. Kevin asked for input from Council members regarding the criteria to be used to designate Honors. It was pointed out that the program at Dixie currently parallels the requirements for the Utah Regents Scholarship. Council members highly favored the inclusion of a GPA requirement, and preferred a graduated step, suggesting 3.5 for Honors and 3.75 for High Honors. Kathryn Anderson explained that GPA remains a very important factor used by the University of Utah in determining student admissions, which supports the validity of GPA use in the Honor Grad program. Parents also supported the use of a ACT composite score. Dr. Bown suggested the school research data to determine what ACT score would include approximately the top 10% of seniors, and use that ACT composite as a requirement for Honors. Kevin Simmons accepted the assignment to investigate that data. Kathryn Anderson questioned whether parents and students are receiving adequate information about the Honors program. The school will email all parents regarding the Honors Application prior to the deadline.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on January 10, 2012.