

Dixie High School Community Council
Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2014

Members Present: Shauna Challis, Cary MacArthur, Mary Cruz, James Bown, Jason Brooks, Greg Butterfield, Paul Ogilvie, Esther Pugmire, Jennifer Hall, Steve Quinn, Sharla Campbell.

Items Discussed:

Student achievement scores recently received from last year's SAGE tests were reviewed by Sharla Campbell. The scores this year were predictably in a different range than we have seen over the past years under the old CRT testing system. The State of Utah has redesigned their testing program so that proficiency scores are now similar to those we have seen on the ACT test over the years. This has radically changed the percent of students proficient in each tested subject.

Lacking trend data for the SAGE, we have looked at comparisons of our students to state and district scores in order to analyze the results. Dixie High students scored above the state average in every subject area, with the exception of Language Arts 10. Our students scored above the district average in every subject but Language Arts 10 and Chemistry. The 10th graders from last year did not score well on the writing portion of the test, and our school has identified some specific changes in curriculum and instruction to address this need. Our Language Arts department will collaborate to create a curriculum map that provides significantly more class time for writing. In order to support this effort, we will purchase four Chromecarts which will allow students to frequently use online writing tools, such as Utah Compose. In order to support higher levels of learning in chemistry, we will arrange for students to have access to additional classroom tools, such as ALEKS, which provides a way for students to reinforce and extend their learning in this subject. Math, the academic area that has been our greatest concern in past years, produced showed student scores above both the state and district average. While we will work to improve student learning in all areas of the curriculum, we can see some noted improvement and positive results.

Council member Cary MacArthur suggested that we emphasize developing an attitude to academic success among students. The school has begun to hold assemblies during our Ambassador workshops which focus on informing students about the value of good grades, high ACT scores, and college readiness. It was suggested that we try to ensure that students attend these assemblies. Mary Cruz also mentioned that her daughter has used a tool in math called a Smart Pen, which works with her iphone to record notes as she works on her math assignments in class.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be January 13, 2015.