

Minutes

November 15, 2017

Members Present: Greg Brooks, Lisa Cuff, Mary Cruz, Jason Brooks, Rick Peirce, Courtney Snow, Terresa Miller, Sharla Campbell. Student observers today included Becca Snow, Andrew Barahana, Drew Wilson.

Items Discussed:

Dixie High efforts to improve ACT scores were discussed. All 10th graders are given the PreACT test each year. These scores help students to measure their progress toward a good ACT score. Greg Brooks stated that his son had found this very useful and had motivated his son to enroll in our ACT Prep class. State land trust funds have been used to fund the ACT prep class at Dixie, and it is anticipated that this will continue next year. In addition, each teacher team has implemented classroom activities that are designed to give kids practice on ACT skills, and that effort will be ongoing throughout the year. Courtney Snow asked if it was possible to split the ACT test over two days to counter the effects of fatigue on the testing students. Mrs. Campbell will investigate.

Sharla Campbell informed members about an increasing number of students at school who are experiencing an emotional and mental health crisis. More suicide ideation and suicide attempts are being reported, and the SHARPS survey indicates that 10th graders are depressed at a much higher rate than other age groups, reporting a rate of 20%. Council members made the following suggestions:

1. Mary Cruz referenced her professional experience as a nurse to validate that the difficulties teens are experiencing may be quite serious to resolve.
2. Lisa Cuff suggested that the school might change the tone to a more positive one. Counselors will explore bringing positive reinforcement into the building.
3. Terresa Miller suggested providing parents with information about suicide prevention.

4. Courtney Snow suggested a “see something, say something” policy for parents and teachers.
5. Mrs. Campbell spoke about the information received through the Washington County Suicide Prevention Coalition which trains students and adults to Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) as a way to initiate a conversation about whether a student is considering suicide, and how to get help for the student.

Dixie High does have a student group known as the Hope Squad that is trained in talking to students and reporting dangerous situations to adults. Counselors advise the Hope Squad and provide the training. Dixie High has held an assembly early in the year where Hope Squad members were introduced to the studentbody, and additional resiliency training occurs in classrooms throughout the year. Mrs. Campbell also mentioned a training opportunity for parents to be held at Pine View Middle School at 6 p.m. on November 30. She will send out information to parents about the training. A national hotline for suicide prevention known as Save a Life is also available where students can text (741-741) or call (1-435-634-5600).

Council members were also informed about the schedule for developing our financial plan for state land trust funds next year. In our February meeting, we anticipate looking at the estimated budget and considering the school’s suggestion for the use of funds. Specifically, the school would like to continue to fund math lab classes, the Rebound Program, and credit recovery programs. This may also be a year when we begin to replace older chromebooks, so technology may be a high priority.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on February 21 at 4 p.m. in the Counseling Conference Room at Dixie High.