

Seward Site Council

October 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mica VanBuskirk, Virginia Morgan, Cindy Ecklund, Principals Burns, Potter & Haskins, Deanna Trobaugh, Ms. Swanders, Tara Swanson, Tara Craytor, David Kingsland, Geri Nipp, Jennifer Elhard, Jen Ransom, Christy Jordan, Joel Williams, Traci Baumgardner, Heather Shank

Old Business

- School Board Mtg. Changes to requirements to be a sub. Online app shortened. HS Diploma required but no college credits, transcript or separate reference form required. Training streamlined.
- Ms. Wiley drafted a flyer to recruit staffing needs; needs to be approved. Principals report that there are now more subs available, but bus drivers are really needed. Covid-related staff absences have reduced, but normal absences still require subs. Call to action – spread the word.
- High school track. Came up during school board work session. Kevin Lyon said our track is number one on the list of tracks, but have leaking roofs to deal with first. Capital improvement bond to pay for it? Voters would have to approve.
- ESSER Survey Results. Have changed due to delta variant. Discussions ongoing about ESSER 3 funds, so can still provide input.
- MOA with teachers union to approve emergency covid-related leave.
- Policy update – alternative education. Mr. Burns and Mr. Potter will share a certified teacher for credit recovery.

New Business

- School activity funds. Reviewed each school's fund balances.
 - Mr. Potter – receives a lump sum to be divided between the sports for travel expenses at his discretion. He looks at away schedules to determine the split. Middle school library does have a small budget not listed.
 - What can room use fees be used for? Mr. Haskins says supposed to be spent on furnishings for the room/building.
 - Mr. Burns – Holland America coming back next summer to rent space so will have room use fees, approx. \$15k. Planning to spend money to upgrade library. Pool needs new score board. Pool fund has \$100k but Mr. Burns has been told he can't spend it. Total funds given to school this year by district for sports is \$16k. Distributed amongst sports at Athletic Director's discretion.
 - How are labs, art supplies funded? By schools or by teachers? They are funded by district separately. 710 accounts are meant to be spent during current year for stuff above and beyond.
 - Memorial for Bus Driver Todd. Mr. Hemstock is building custom bench.
 - Raise lifeguard pay to get more staffing?
- High School schedule change. Mr. Burns sent survey out with options. Kids have been graduating early. Consequently, less kids, less FTE. Projected enrollment was 160-170. At 133. Only 22 seniors, 31 juniors, many spending lots of time outside school. Present day, HS is 2.5 FTE over. 14 kids left for connections, idea or raven. He needs to keep kids (freshman,

sophomores) in the building in 2 years to keep teachers as incoming classes will be smaller. About 3 – 4 kids graduate early each year.

- Service contract. Was common practice in 1980s. 10 hours per year of service in local community. Will start next year when freshman come in. Based on Homer's program.
- City of Seward is in a pickle, not just schools. No housing, too expensive. This was reemphasized throughout discussion.
- Will sit down with Mr. Dye to see what can be offered. Need to look at reducing options.
- Personalized Learning. That block is more like study hall. Ms. Swanders clarified that personalized learning takes place in each classroom when teacher targets each student's interest/ability.
- Ms. Morgan – align school schedules so that kids can take advantage of classes offered at other school. HS schedules throughout the district are different. Bussing affects school schedules.
- How will changing schedule help keep kids in building? Would change how many credits they can take each year. 8 vs. 6. Once upperclassmen have enough credits, they're not spending time in school because they don't have to. Culture crisis – no leadership with seniors in building.
- Proposed schedule options. Calorie break = second chance breakfast. Dual enrollment, AP class during class day – teacher loses money.
- Same discussion every year – staffing fluctuations. Need consistency for basic level of instruction for our kids.
- What did teachers think about schedules? All over the place. Staff meeting tomorrow. Ms. Swanders will follow up

Principal Reports.

- Mr. Haskins. Cross country finished. Ms. Haugh has Habitat club. Play in dirt, cut branches, pull weeds – kids are excited. ALICE drill Oct. 6th went well. Awful weather for it. Kids had fun participating, jumping out windows. Budget meeting next Wed Oct 20th. Oct 28/29 PT conferences (all 3 schools). Title 1 on agenda next month. In jeopardy of losing Title 1 funding due to low applications. Online form may be difficult for some. Has funding for an aide. Need 5 hour tutor. Nurse resigned. FEMA nurse in school. Enrollment is 208. Lost 10 when mask requirement was lifted. OASIS count.
- Mr. Potter. Last day of 1st quarter. Conferences will match what HS is doing. Long day on Thursday. Shorter day on Friday. Fall sports just finished. Basketball just started. Kids just choose electives for 2nd quarter. Will get new schedule on Monday. Tweaked classes to even enrollment amongst classes. Subs are still an issue. Hired new special ed aide and new special ed teacher. Still have 1 spec ed aide and 1 special ed teacher position to fill. Enrollment is 138.
- Mr. Burns. ALICE drill. Earthquake drill on 21st. Club Day on 25th. Vacancies – sped teacher and ½ time position for theatre. Cross country ski coach and asst. wrestling coach. Enrollment is 133.

- Dress code/hall pass policies – equal enforcement? Will be discussed at staff meeting tomorrow.
- School Board report. Virginia spent all day visiting all 3 schools. Met with kids and adults, Sources of Strengths. Contact tracing policy may be changed, administration is working on it.
- Homecoming week at HS was fun.

Next meeting Nov. 11th.