Nevada Union High School - SITE COUNCIL

Unapproved Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Library Conference Room

3:00 p.m.- 4:30 P.M. (tentative ending time)

Welcome: Jordan Horowitz, Chairperson

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Call to Order at 3:08 p.m.
2. Agenda (Consent Approval) added non-action item of parent advisory committee report APPROVED BY GENERAL CONSENT
3. Minutes (Consent Approval) - Correction: revise to “**W**E=MC2” club in March 12th minutes (stands for Women Exploring Math-Based Career Choices). APPROVED AS CORRECTED BY GENERAL CONSENT
4. PUBLIC FORUM
   1. Invitation to members of the public to address the School Site Council with issues not on the agenda (non-action items which may be added to future agendas) NONE
5. REPORTS
   1. Students’ report (student council, non-action item)

Kyler reported that there were 51 students from leadership programs at 5 feeder schools to network and see what Student Council is like here at N.U. Prom is this weekend and Senior Ball is May 9th. On campus, next Monday there will be a hair drive (8 inch donation). Spring sports are active. High School Nation will be here next month on May 15th: a music/art festival on the lower field. It will start at 12pm, and High School Nation is donating $10,000 worth of arts materials for Nevada Union. It is run by a non-profit and is totally free to N.U. Next month for Tori’s senior project N.U. will host the PAL games, part of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization, on May 14th.

*Grease* the musical will be April 24, 25...

* 1. Principal’s report (non-action item)

We received participation rates for CAHSEE testing, and we had 99% participation rate for English Language Arts and 97.6% participation rate for Math. We kicked off Smarter Balance testing for ELA. There were a flood of “opt out” forms turned in by families, so we did not meet the 95% target participation rate, and we will have to see how that impacts our school by the state. Many “opt outs” were juniors wanting to study for upcoming Advanced Placement tests. Risa asked if there is leeway on the dates for testing to not interfere with AP testing; Dan said we may consider it but we have a limited window and need to coordinate dates around spring break, but we can take a look at ideal scheduling again next year.

There will be no advancement to program improvement for any school next year. Choir took an 11-day field trip to Europe and did beautiful performances. It was a successful trip with 5 different concerts in various countries.

Update on survey: English department has committed to helping proctor the school climate survey for students, likely in the middle of May. Cynthia asked how long it will take to get results. Dan said that he hasn’t yet asked how long it will take, but results should likely be quick with a little more time for analysis. There is also a staff and parent survey as well.

Last Thursday there was a dedication down by the pool for the Craig Zetterberg Memorial, and there were approximately 100 people in attendance and a nice write-up in *The Union.* There is a sign and an engraved bench.

Amy VanVoorst is organizing a triathalon on May 31st for fundraising and as a memorial for Zetterberg.

There is a proposed late-start time for next year. It was a topic at the last board meeting. There was strong support at the parent club meeting for making it happen sooner, and the distict is open to a town-hall/community meeting to hear from stakeholders. The board may postpone action on changing to late start for 2016. Risa said that parents are writing letters to the Board to include it as an agenda item for the upcoming board meeting.

Scott reported that Green Academy is in the process of forming a group of teachers interested in collaborating and participating in the “Green” energy/science and outdoors/ecological/conservation theme for this academy. It is one more element to attract students and stay relevant. We are focusing energy on developing at least 3 new courses on campus: and English course is already developed, hopefully a world history/social science strand, biology strand, and CTE standards. They are creating a large garden to be executed over the summer, across from N.U. Tech. LifeLab through UC Santa Cruz has an incredible facility and program and has a lot of curriculum, including common core materials, that could be used as a resource for the garden start-up here at N.U.

Jordan added that the UC Davis extension of Master Gardeners is another great resource. Cynthia said that she is part of the Master Gardeners and is willing to assist or advise. Scott asked if anyone would be interested in the design, and Cynthia said there is a very strong possibility of interest in that. She will share contact information with Scott.

Risa asked how this relates to the STEM program. Scott explained that they are completely different. The STEM program is a pathway, different from the Green Academy.

c. Parent Advisory Committee Report (Cynthia Slaton)

There was a significantly low response on the LCAP survey. The report is 26 pages long. Of the questions, a majority 50% or more of people felt needs were being made, but there were a couple of standouts. Over 20% felt that it was not being met District-wide to provide a variety of diverse offerings for college/career readiness. 34.15% wanted late-start (top priority ranked out of 5 possible). This is a challenge because that is about ranking priorities, but doesn’t really provide an accurate picture of the percentage who want late-start.

Scott asked if there was talk by the District about a survey more relevant to our community. Cynthia said that this was mandated by the state, and there was a low turnout for responses, so not reflective of the majority. Risa said that the survey is poorly designed and not entirely relevant, which serves as bad PR for the district as a whole. Cynthia said that this was going out to elementary schools and higher education. Dr. Johnson was required to provide this specific survey by the state but certainly agreed with parents that this survey was not ideal or specific enough for our District and population.

* 1. Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)
     1. Courtney reported that several posters have been created to display on campus for the Miner Code of Conduct.
     2. Video contest underway, and roll out for student and staff acknowledgement will begin at the start of the new school year (e.g. lunch with the principal)
     3. Any way for faculty and staff to have alerts or awareness about interventions/notes for specific students. Michael added that it is essential to have current data reviewed regularly.

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   1. School Climate
      1. Survey
      2. dress code

Social Justice Club was meeting and talked specifically about this issue. They made a strong argument about the gender bias of the dress code in terms of what is acceptable and isn’t. Kyler said that he doesn’t see enforcement of males with dress code as much. Megan and Mitch said that it is difficult or uncomfortable to address dress code violations with the opposite gender. Social Justice Club is interested in hosting a stakeholder meeting to have a discussion about it and provide thoughts.

Michael asked about closed-campus and how that has been going this year. Dan said that suspension data we had 93 last year and 29 to date for drug/alcohol, so that demonstrates the importance of it. Kyler said that students have seemed to realize that closed-campus isn’t that bad.

* 1. By laws:
     1. Amendment of by-laws (Kyler Vaughn to present amendment for Student members which betters reflects their selection and service as part of student council.)

Article III-Section 1

School personnel (the principal, classroom teachers or other personnel) shall constitute 50%; parents or other community members shall constitute 25%; and pupils shall constitute 25%*[, with at least two students being representatives as selected by Student Council]*.

Section 2

All members of the council shall serve for a two-year term*[, with the exception of student members, who shall serve a one-year term]*. Elections should be staggered within each membership group. A member can run for reelection at the end of his/her term.

Moved by Michael, seconded by Cynthia that we amend the by-laws to read as above. This will be an action item at the April meeting. The bracketed parts are the changes; they will not be bracketed or italicized in the final writing. MOTION CARRIES - APPROVED BY ALL

1. NEW BUSINESS
   1. Comments from Council members and public (non-action items)

Cynthia said that she would like to include on the next agenda a brief discussion of our site facilities plan. She spoke with Donna from Sierra College facilities, who asked why we have not switched to LEDs - prop 39 will pay for the switch, and Pleasant Ridge School District got $500,000 out of a 5-year plan. This would specifically impact a couple of items on our facilities improvement plan related to lighting.

Enrollment numbers since 2008 and projected enrollment for next year. 570 8th graders in the county, and we anticipate 519 enrollment in our district. Enrollment should stabilize in approximately three years, but we are going to continue to experience declining enrollment for a few more years. Risa asked about the numbers and evaluation for students who leave the county versus families who stay in the area but leave the District.

Michael said that changing start time may attract more students to come here. Dan said that many studies show that later start times do improve student attendance and enrollment.

1. Closing
   1. Next meeting date set for Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room (consent approval)
   2. Future agenda items
      1. Small Learning Communities update (Partnership, Humanities and Green Academies)
      2. School Climate Survey (CSULA)
2. ADJOURNMENT (consent approval) at 4:35 p.m.