

Nevada Union High School Site Council Meeting
Approved Minutes
Thursday, March 10th, 2016
Library Conference Room
3:00 p.m.

Welcome: Luke Browning, Chairperson

Members present: Junet Bedayn, Betsy Brown, Luke Browning, Sherry Chargin, Jade Ewing, Dan Frisella, June Gilfillan, Michael Hill-Weld, Carol Lee, Kaelin Mudd, Risa Roseman, Megan Ross, Jill Sonnenberg

1. PUBLIC MEETING

- A. Call to Order 3:07
- B. Agenda (Consent Approval)
- C. Minutes - Moved by Jill, seconded by Jade to accept the minutes as presented. No objections.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

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 present

3. REPORTS

A. Students - Lots going on!

Junet reported that California Thursdays are being launched next week - The NU Cafe will be serving food sourced all from California and as local as possible. Menus will include Thai salad and chicken wraps. Taste-testing stations will be available, assisted by Sierra Harvest. Eco NU will be pulling Scotch broom soon.

Jade reported that, for St. Patrick's Day, they are spreading spirit by posting clovers with each student's name on them. Snowboarding, Downhill Ski and Nordic Skiing did very well at the season championships. Leadership students are planning a week to emphasize community service through on- and off-campus clubs and organizations. The Gatsby dance will be this Saturday at the North Star House.

Kaelin reported that two students are hosting auditions for A Night on Broadway (a senior project), Key Club is hosting Penny Wars, Drama is holding auditions for next year's production of The Addams Family, and band and choir performances coming up. They're also hiding gold nuggets for St. Patrick's Day. NU News is really improving.

Megan reported that the Yearbook will be done on Friday, March 18th. They'll have one more month to push sales.

B. Principal

Dan reported that Nate Homan and Alicia Lacoste have been selected as Teachers Who Make a Difference at NU; they will be honored at a dinner March 31st. We're working on getting 8th graders enrolled and course requests input. Counselors and Dan went out to feeder

schools to assist with this process. Dan has been giving lunch tours to a number of students and families interested in attending NU next year, as well as a community leadership group. It is invigorating to show the public all that we do. The Math department has chosen a new textbook sequence aligned with common core standards; the books are on public display in the library conference room as part of the textbook adoption process. New curriculum for next year: Exploring Computer Science, and AP Computer Science A for students concurrently enrolled in Algebra 2 or above (counts as a 3rd year of math or a UC-G elective, tentatively in the B-wing lab). We're gearing up for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests April 18 - 21. We will also provide a health unit for Freshmen on the testing mornings including HIV, tobacco and drug use education, and healthy lifestyle topics during that week.

The focus on school culture has been going well. Yesterday was the first Nacho Wednesday ~ over 30 staff attended. A Staff Mob appeared at the boys' basketball playoff game, and will appear next week at a choir concert. Dan attended the California Association of Directors of Activities (CADA) conference with Pete Totoonchie and Megan. They heard a presentation by Phil Boyte, the author of School Culture by Design, and participated in lots of energetic activities and networking. The shamrock project that Leadership is working on is spot-on application of the ideas that engage and make students feel a part of the school community.

Dan turned down the opportunity to participate in Dancing with the Stars for this year, but maybe in the future?

C. Local Control Accountability Plan Committee Report

Jade reported that the committee is meeting again tomorrow and will report out next time. Michael explained that this group helps to determine how discretionary money allotted to the district will be spent/distributed. The committee is comprised of staff, students, community members, parents, etc. including Jade, Dan, Junet, and Michael. The Town Hall meetings are also an aspect of the LCAP; Jill suggested live-streaming meetings or offering incentives to get more community members involved. Surveys will also solicit input.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1:1 Device Initiative

We have enough money to move the entire District to 1:1 devices next school year. There are reservations among the teaching staff, reservations from Technology about supporting the initiative, and advantages to a slower rollout so all the leases don't come up for renewal at one time. Surveys have gone out to students asking whether having the devices enhance their learning experiences, and if so how. Still to explore: Are staff ready to integrate them in the classroom? What are the Staff development needs to be able to teach with them?

Kaelin commented that if students would be able to use Chromebooks outside of classes, that would be great. Megan uses them in her classes and finds them very useful. There are still challenges with maintenance. Partnership is using free versions of novels. Economically, will it be wiser to purchase hard copies of books? Will e-textbook leases expire every 6 years? The biggest problem right now is students not charging the Chromebooks. Students could decline use of school devices if they prefer

their own, but access may not be the same. As a parent, Jill does not want her son/student in front of a computer screen from 7:30 - 2:30, and beyond for homework. She reports that college students prefer paper books. Technology becomes obsolete as soon as you start using it. Does the emphasis on technology contradict our Athletes Committed philosophy? Risa mentioned a concern about whether quality of teaching suffers when staff is distracted by learning new technology and changes in curriculum. What's the intent - interest by students? teachers? the appearance of the school being tech-savvy? equal access for all students? Michael questioned whether paper textbooks may be obsolete by the time they're published; electronic ones can be updated. Luke mentioned, as a new Chromebook user, that the online training was very user-friendly and allowed him to choose the modules that interested or applied to him. We don't apply technology to some tasks for which efficiency could be improved.

We have not purchased new textbooks, except for backfilling, since 2007, so it is very timely to figure out where dollars will be invested. Sherry mentioned that parents can purchase insurance for student's Chromebook.

B. Intervention period/Bell schedule

Luke explained that there has been much talk amongst the staff exploring schedule changes. There is a need for intervention time, but it needs to be organized and accountable in order to be effective. If a student does poorly on a test, there should be a way for the student to get re-taught, taught in a different way through an intervention period. After-school tutoring is not an option for many students dependent on bus transportation. At the same time, we don't want a study hall period without knowing how to make it useful. We have software that will analyze the standards that have or have not been learned in order to safely or appropriately move on to the next concept or course level. An intervention period could also be used for enrichment. Jade commented that this could work similar to the Gold Card concept (where one day a week time is available for studying, completing AP coursework, advisory meetings or free time). Junet asked if students have been involved in discussions about an intervention period; Luke will bring this up at the next open teacher meeting. This is all in the input stage - exciting, but likely not ready to implement for the '16-17 school year.

C. Site Council Public Relations - Communication/Transparency - save until next meeting

6. Comments from Council members and public

Macarena put out a survey about student interest in extended library hours yesterday; there have been 98 responses so far.

Jade commented that any committee that exists should consider having students participate.

A. Next meeting date set for Thursday, **April 14th**, at 3:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room (consent approval)

B. Future agenda items
PBIS (survey results)
How to unite clubs

8. ADJOURNMENT 4:32

