

Nevada Union High School Site Council
Approved Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2016
Library Conference Room
3:00 p.m.

Welcome: Luke Browning, Chairperson

Members present: Luke Browning, Sherry Chargin, Dan Frisella, Mitch Giles, June Gilfillan, Michael Hill-Weld, Carol Lee, Risa Roseman, Megan Ross, Jill Sonnenberg

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Call to Order 3:04
2. Agenda (Consent Approval)
3. Minutes - correct from RS to RJ in the paragraph about Restorative Justice. Michael moved, Dan seconded minutes be approved as amended.
4. 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

5. REPORTS

- A. Students (student council, non-action item) - none present
- B. Principal (non-action item) Winter sports are in full swing ~ basketball, wrestling, alpine and nordic skiing, and snowboarding. The Drama season kicks off next week with a performance, "The Great High School Whodunit". Choreography Showcase opens the first week of February. We had a certificated staff meeting yesterday, and district-wide staff development is planned for January 25. The focus will be on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), the new state assessment given to Juniors. Dan shared testing results with staff at the meeting yesterday ~ NUHS was below the state average in both English and Math, and below the county average in Math. We also compared results with Placer County schools where NUHS scored 16th out of 16 schools, a real gut-check. We had some less-than-ideal logistics last year, such as history teachers proctoring math exams, some higher performing students opting out of tests because AP tests followed the very next week, etc. We will try to remove those obstacles this year. A few staff members have been attending Response to Intervention training in Placer County - June, Dan, Luke, Melissa Madigan. The book School Culture by Design has been shared with many staff members. A staff retreat is being planned for next month to address school culture, professional needs and expectations. Every 15 Minutes is planned for May.

Comments about the Principal's report followed. Jill noted that the assessment tests up until now have been shorter than they will be this year; a lot of patience is needed to build up the stamina to read for extended time periods. There may also be keyboarding issues that influence success. Jill asked what other schools have been doing as a testing schedule. Del Oro does it all in two days; other students have a late start. Mitch reported that some students

don't take the test seriously and are done in 3-4 minutes. Dan plans to show the scores to students to encourage buy-in out of pride. Jill emphasized the value of having a teacher's own students under their supervision during testing. It makes it challenging that math classes are not grade-specific. Risa asked if the school gets sub-group reports, and what kind of information that gives us (like what level of math they are in). Michael asked whether, since the state is structuring tests so that extended excerpts are part of the test, are lesson plans being adjusted to prepare for that? Megan answered that, yes, both English and Social Studies departments are transitioning. June pointed out that usual style of use on a computer is different than with textbooks and workbooks. Partnership is starting to read novels on their Chromebooks. Faculty response to testing results was pretty sober and quiet. Practice tests have been made available, but teaching to the test has not been required; we would rather teach the skills required to be successful on the test, and reviewing test-taking strategies. Luke reinforced how important the pride element might be.

Risa also asked how staff members are chosen for the retreat. The entire staff has been invited.

Dan reflected that out of 16 tables at the staff meeting yesterday, only 2 tables agreed that a particular goal was the most important to all of them. That shows that there is a lot to work on, and they're good goals because they are important to lots of different stakeholders. Staff does get fragmented trying to go a bunch of different directions though.

C. Parent Advisory Council Report - Dan asked if any parents are available to serve on the LCAP committee. It involves 3 Fridays, the first of which is next week. Michael will let Dan know if he is available.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Site Goals (4-7)

Goal #5: To bring in Goal 3 from WASC, add professional development; increasing staff familiarity with technology. Luke pointed out that purchase orders, requests for reimbursement, field trip forms, etc. are all still done with pen & paper - not instructional but process. Add as an action: Identify and implement technological tools to increase efficiency by replacing paper-related tasks. Michael would like to see added to the second bullet: (tools) and strategies (used for instruction in the classroom) and communication with students and parents. This may be covered in a communication goal, but emphasis by reflecting it in several places is warranted.

Under Actions: Change timeline on Technology Committee to Spring 2016. Related to Chromebook pilot program, Mitch expressed frustration about limited means of follow-through when Partnership Chromebooks are broken or students transfer out and don't return them. Chromebooks will be ordered for teachers, and we hope to have 1:1 devices for two full grade levels next year. There is still progress being made in infrastructure (updating of WiFi switches, wireless access points, etc.). RE: Explore option of Frosh Tech class, Exploring Computer Science and AP Computer Science will be offered next year; will count for 3rd year of math.

Goal #6: Scratch bottom sentence mistakenly carried over from school goal #4.

Delete review of evaluations under How the School will Evaluate the Progress of the Goal.

Actions:

- (1) Add Google, etc. after Schoology. (Provide staff training for use of) these tools (instead of just Schoology).
- (2) Add to hosting 9th grade parent night: including an evaluation at the end of the night.
- (4) Add (Encourage staff to make positive contacts with parents) and students. Add postcard project in the description.
- (6) Add: Develop an avenue for communicating confidential complaints.

Goal #7 will be on the agenda to finish at the next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 1:1 Devices - save until next meeting
- B. Late Start Update - Really briefly, Districts are working together to figure out transportation-sharing possibilities and adjustments of start times. Feeder school districts aren't too happy about the financial impact on them. The cost looks to be more than originally anticipated.
- C. PBIS (survey results) - save until next time

8. Comments from Council members and public (non- action items)

Jill announced that Just Mercy is the next Nevada County reads and it is a great choice.

9. Closing

- A. Next meeting date set for Thursday, February 11th at 3:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room (consent approval)
- B. Future agenda items
 - Site Council Public Relations
 - Communication/Transparency
 - How to unite clubs
 - Intervention period

ADJOURNMENT 4:38