

Nevada Union High School Site Council Minutes
Thursday, November 14, 2019

J204
4:00 p.m.

Welcome: Kelly Rhoden, Principal
Minutes: Faith Tannenbaum

1. PUBLIC MEETING

A. Call to Order -
4:05 meeting called to order

B. Agenda (Consent Approval)

Agenda Review, motion to approve made by Helen Zerick, seconded by Julie Baker, motion passes

Kelly Rhoden wants name tags

C. Minutes from October 17, 2019

- Access via NUHS email

Call review minutes, shared in email, Julie Baker moves to approve the minutes from September 12th, seconded, motion passed

Reviewed October 17th minutes, Gordon Bishop went over CASP data trends and concerns, public conversation around vaping, principals report, comments from council and overview, motion to approve made by Bella Hall, second made by August, motion passes. Rhoden reminds everyone to go get their meals from the AG department!

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)

Rhoden calls for any non-action items, none mentioned, moved past

3. REPORTS

A. Students (student council, non-action item)

Bella Hall: senior project deadlines, college apps. UC's due from now until February, meeting for senior trip held on the 12th, trip will be held May 8th and 9th, second homecoming coming up on the 24th of January and council is beginning work on it now

Julie Baker: is trip only for those who can pay?

Rhoden: mentions payment schedule, help from community, and other donations

Bella Hall: no official fundraising done through the school, in the past two school busses have been filled

B. Principal (non-action item)

Rhoden: Calendar should be updated, decision made to change the final schedule this year due to the fact that we missed so many days with the power-outages (first semester cut 19 days), decision made to push out finals week from the 18th, 19th and 20th → shifting finals to the 15th, 16th, and 17th. Loses one collaboration day the week of finals to even out our semester finals. Question: what happens with snow days?

Rhoden: We have applied for state wavers to excuse power-outage days and save our snow days. We have made the decision not to shift our calendar further until we hear back from the state. The two previously reserved snow days will now be in session. If the days are not waved, school will resume the week after graduation. For transparency sake, many seniors might not be

expected to show up, some may some may not be. For all other students, finals will be shifted later. Senior finals still held early in preparation for graduation.

Question: if we are starting later at 11 am in some school closer events w

Rhoden: to combat the snow days we have worked as a district to create late-start days. This would allow for plows to drive and sun to melt snow, then call student back in at a later time and have that day count as a full school day. Durham believes that they could run the busses at 9am as long as power is staying on as well.

Question: how do senior take finals early in regular classes?

Rhoden: always have been an issue, seniors work with teachers to come take final like normal. Student work this out with their teachers.

Julie Baker: when will we hear from the state?

Rhoden: could take up to three days

Helen: impact on business and school funding with all the power-outages, if this continues what steps will we be taking to adjust?

Rhoden: Luke Browning attend county meetings to talk about safety, report back says that this will be going on for the next two or three years, the state is asking for the schools to build in more "emergency school closure" days.

Luke Browning: the impact that is had was extreme for everyone, emergency vehicles and cell towers presented problems, multiple holes in our county wide safety back-up plans were identified in this meeting. NID has proposed some new solutions that would limit the negative impact.

Helen: what is the impact on school funding? Obtaining the state letter excusing these days will help us in the future.

Rhoden: Across the state schools are submitting these waivers to excuse power-outage days ect.

Rhoden: push to include a previous basketball coach and teacher to name the west gym after hime "Strome Gymnasium". True home game is in January and the goal is to have to done by then. A committee and discussion needs to be established before any decision is made.

Student: raises the question of abusive relationship between female students and players with Coach Strome.

Rhoden: it has come forward in the board meeting last night, there is board policy in place to work out any potential naming is done. These forums help.

Rhoden: Bell schedule update, we are looking to change it to offer more for our students. Either a 4x4 system, of a 4x8 system. This would give students the option to be involved in more electives while still meeting A-G requirements. In addition, the students with IEPs that need more time would now have more time for electives as well.

Rhoden: Our entire district should be on the same schedule so we can share resources easily, presentation with staff have begun, tomorrow morning this will be presented at BR; North Point and Ghedottii are not included in these changes, there will also be a financial increase to do this so that will continue to be investigated. Intervention time will also be added into our schedule to catch students falling behind. BR is on a block schedule with a total of 6 courses.

Question: when will this transpirer?

Rhoden: our goal is next year, however it will likely take two years

Question: can we have this presented?

Rhoden: next meeting I can present that for Site Council, **Kelly will bring Bell Schedule Presentation to next meeting!** There are pro's and con's to both, it will always work well for some departments and not so well for others. No matter what, we will be moving to have a total of 8 classes.

Rhoden: LCAP funding, district initiatives, LCAP committee meet three times a year and those are getting started soon. Kelly needs three NU parents that are interested in being involved in setting district goals for the next three years.

Those are interested...

- **August Sankey**
- **Bella Hall**
- **Julie Baker**

June will bring in two more students from different groups, SPED, EL or other

C. WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges - non-action item)

Rhoden: Gordon and Kelly have been meeting, report will be shared, WASC COMMITTEE WILL BE COMING IN MARCH

4. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Student: Gender neutral bathrooms need to be unlocked by teachers, they need to request key from teachers and this is effectively asking students to “come-out” to teachers. Making these more open and available for students.

Julie Baker: front page article about the cost of getting aid to students in need, it went along with the data we reviewed recently, NU is reportedly getting significantly less money for student aid, where is this money being made up? What is its effect?

Rhoden: The district has been very aware of these budget changes/cuts, \$450,000 less money from the county.

Julie Baker: How do we counter that?

Rhoden: When other districts are benefiting from this they are less likely to vote to change this budget. By law, we have to serve students needs so other programs are being cut as an effect.

Question: How was this not noticed by the county before?

Rhoden: They shifted their funding model, superintendent's voted, changes in legislation, general shadyness in previous discussions about this, originally the cut was going to be a \$750,000 cut to NU's budget.

Julie Baker: Does LCAP always make that decision?

Rhoden: they effectively rearrange our budget working within these new guidelines.

Helen: calender question- does school always start after the fair?

Rhoden: there has been some work on the calendar for next year, we always start after the fair, yes

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Role of Site Council

B. Elections for Site Council Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Parliamentarian

Rhoden: We need a site council chair to run meetings, make agendas and call votes. We need a co-chair if site council chair not present, we need a secretary and a parliamentarian.

Site Council Chair: August Sankey

Site Council Co-Chair: Evelin Grandfield

Secretary: Faith Tannenbaum

Parliamentarian: Bella Hall

Rhoden calls all votes, all passed unanimously.

C. Site Goals Overview

Rhoden: Requests we move Luke Browning in front of the site council overview for sake of time.

Julie Baker: do we need to do an overview again? I think we are all aware of the purpose/goals so far.

Rhoden: reads over site council overview briefly and plans to share this document, along with the site council goals, with the group. Tim Reid will be attending the next meeting to present actions and activities for the next three years.

Katie Alling: motion that site council discusses goals next meeting

Rhoden: seconded motion

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLC (Professional Learning Communities)

Luke Browning: History of PLCs → education has not changed mentality as we have evolved and grown as a population, great on some levels but also put a lot of the same people in the same profession to work in isolation, historically education has all taken place in a single room behind a closed door. Working in teams is more effective in both educational and professional environments. Education has been more like a marathon, looking different from teacher to teacher. Working behind closed doors limits the potential to observe other great teaching methods. PLCs → focus on teaching to focus on student learning. Teachers need to meet standards and ensure students have the skills they need to meet grade levels across the board no matter where a student goes. Last year many teachers attended conferences etc. and brought back new info. they are excited to share. District and Site plan to support this, meeting last year. Goals set and vision for this has been set. What does that mean? We started with the core departments, english and math, to work together with Maria Nelson. Looked at state standards, and divided it into three categories for what is most important. “Boulders, rocks and butterflies” Unreal conversations, diving votes → all showing the difference between what different teachers view as the most important. From that came a greater list of “boulders” (the most important). Moving away from tests being used as an autopsy. Importance of reteaching skills that are being missed and showing up in testing. Kelly and Luke have committed to for teachers to have time to do this work and have these conversations. Foundation is still being laid, Algebra and freshman math course should be ready by next year in PLCs. English will also be ready. Social Studies and Science will take another year. Singletons (a one teacher class) are slowly beginning. PE and World Language will also begin next year. Biggest thing is time for intervention → built in time to reteach something without missing any new content and also not coming in in their own time. Down the road will come enrichment programs for the kids that “get it”. This provides new challenges for A students, not the top priority currently. Intervention will take top priority.

Julie Baker: how do you measure this impact? In test scores?

Luke Browning: There will be improvements in state tests as a bi-product, however not the main focus of PLCs. Leadership has to look at data, if leadership team is not involved this could go wrong. Data can be broken down by class and grade level to see where students are at, looking to see which specific kids are falling below grade level. Sometimes teachers get too comfortable having “common stuff”.

Question: Thank you for investing in this! If you are going through this process and teachers are unable to decide which things are “boulders” does the facilitator step in?

Luke Browning: We have been able to come to agreements, have conversations and expand with an open mind. Teachers are willing to try something new and be receptive. Once there is data, we can have something to follow up on.

Katie Alling: Once we have this data, we can go specifically to teachers to help them reteach in a new way.

Luke Browning: Freshmen English met this week, sorted students and evaluated which groups they could have enrichment and intervention sessions with. Teachers trying new things and

rethinking the conventional teaching methods, thinking of their students being all of NU, not just those sitting in their class.

Katie Alling: switching focus from teaching to learning, asking how effective her teaching is instead.

7. CLOSING

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 exactly.

A. Next meeting date set for Thursday, December 12, 2019 (4:00 - 5:30 PM) J204

8. ADJOURNMENT