

Park City School District - PTO/PTA Community Council

September 22, 2014, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Superintendent: Ember Conley

Council Board: Sara Bresee, Riki Case, Shannon Hallowell Schemmer , Cindy Vernon , Laurie West, Christie Worthington

Introduction

- Welcome and Board Introductions
 - 16 attendees with all schools represented.
- Mission Statement
 - Materials are available on the district website.

- Who is Who

PCHS	Laurie West	laurie@vonwest.com
TMJH	Marilyn Carson	marilynk.carson@gmail.com
EHMS	Christie Worthington	farbington1@gmail.com
JRES	Amy Macuga	macugas@me.com
	Kerrie McNeeley	kicm71@icloud.com
TSES	Missy Hilton	missyparkcity@yahoo.com
PPES	Jodi Manwaring	jhmanwaring2@netscape.net
	Tara Stocker	tarmar27@gmail.com
MPES	Beth Cummings	bethjcumplings@gmail.com

Guests

- Valley Behavioral Health, introduction of services and resources – Kathy Day
 - Our goal is to promote healthy lifestyles and the tools to achieve them.
 - New this year – providing Suicide Prevention training available to all. This training will be offered to all teachers in the school. PTAs could offer this one hour training to all parents in schools.
 - To schedule, reach Kathy at 435-575-1206 or Pamella at 435-575-1203.
 - Also available:
 - Underage drinking displays and presentations available
 - Baggies with collateral samples were also provided to attendees
 - Info bits / bullets to be included in school newsletters. Kathy to provide to Riki for distribution.
 - A parenting class will be offered offering basic principles of parenting for all ages: STEP
 - Registration details are in The Compass magazine.
 - ****Also note – it’s “Eat Dinner as a Family” month****

Updates from the District – Ember Conley

- District Learning Plan and Professional Learning Communities (PLC)
 - See resources at: Sept 17th Retreat Board Docs:
<https://www.boarddocs.com/ut/pcsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9NSKDZ516C4B>
 - Plan is a working document which is continually updated. It’s formed around the professional community model. It has 3 big ideas:
 - All students can learn
 - Use data to measure that
 - We have specific interventions and enrichments if they are or aren’t learning.

- ATI-administered (Galileo) – Students have 3 benchmarks. First benchmark test is complete for this school year. First through 11th grades are tested. This is based on blue prints of state standards. (Utah common core.)
 - Next two dates:
 - Date: January
 - Date: April
- Teachers have the Galileo results now and are being provided with specifics on how to use these results. Details:
 - Oct 1. – Full-day training for teachers, administrators on using the system, insights on trends. And then training on the Parent portal.
 - Parents will be given access to the parent portal. How and when is TBD.
 - For Students: Test Talks will be provided by teachers with the student group when there is a clear area of development. The question will be specifically reviewed and discussed as a group.
 - ****Note system language and vocab is very tied to the Utah Core – which may be confusing.**** There was some discussion about students misunderstanding the vocabulary in the test versus understanding the concept.
 - Also discussed Curriculum Mapping – and how to align across the schools. This will be an ongoing effort. Dr. Einhorn, a curriculum expert, led this effort initially. And this will continue – specifically in the summer – by looking at the data, looking at the standards and mapping the curriculum. Dr. Einhorn is also monitoring how this is affecting the dual language.
 - Summary – this year and next year we expect a bit of rockiness. We will continue to strive to get the kinks worked out. This is the baseline year. These Galileo is not used as grading – it’s a pure tool to inform instructing.
- Additionally SAGE testing will be administered at the end of the year which is about the sum of the year and key materials learned).
 - Last year’s SAGE results will be available in mid-November. Sage results take much longer to get than Galileo results, which only take about 5 days.
- Projections for master plan
 - A master planning committee exists. After much discussion with the board, the board appointed a master planning committee. They have solicited names from the community. Main charges to look at our growth and enrollment – from the facilities side. The Master Planning Committee reports to the board and makes recommendations for capital projects over \$1M.
 - We need two volunteers – ideally with someone who has planning, facilities, construction, architecture, and community history. Names to be submitted to Lori Pearce: Lpearce@pcschools.us
 - Student enrollment and class size
 - Our growth is not larger than our projections. We don’t anticipate adding any additional staff.
 - Kindergarten is bigger than anticipated. As our preschool program is so strong, we have some shifts happening. Students are now entering Kindergarten with skills similar to what they used to leave with. We believe a class size of 25 – 27 with routines in place and clear directions is manageable.
 - Jeremy ranch 3rd grade –

- Once we get the exact moneys from the Oct. 1 count – Ember’s first recommendation is to put a teacher at Jeremy Ranch 3rd grade. ****NOTE** – an official student in chairs count is taken on October 1. PTO’s encouraged to do a campaign to support attendance that day is that is how budget is allocated. (9/23/14 update: Schools will count all students physically present that day, as well as those students on the roll, who may be absent on October 1st, but who have attended at least once in the 10 days prior to October 1st. Thus PTO incentives are not necessary.)
 - When looking at the number of specialists we have at the elementary level we far exceed the national average. We are now looking at very creative solutions to deploy these resources and enriching the students learning.
 - There’s a thought in the community that we need to STOP open enrollment. However, it is AGAINST the law not to allow students from out of district if our district is not at or above 90% capacity. Capacity refers to the physical capacity of a building, NOT the number of teachers or students we have.
 - In short, this law makes no sense (See your congressmen!). Of note Parleys Park and Trailside are CLOSED as they are at or above the 90% threshold. This is assessed every year. There have been additional resources put in to double check the residency addresses – and collecting the tuition money from families who are outside of the district as we need the funds. We are ENFORCING this policy.
 - Note – out of district students cost the district ~\$1 Million. We receive \$2200/student and from Wasatch we receive \$1900/student.
 - NOTE: Parents can take action by working with
 - To be part of the State Technology Bill, Open Enrollment, Charter Funding.
 - Abby McNulty is heading up a group to have a voice at the legislature. She can be contacted at amcnulty@pcschoools.us.
 - Class size and curriculum planning for next year have begun for secondary and above. We’ve begun looking at state requirements v. local implementation – where are there shifts we need to make to get more CORE into the schedule:
 - Ex. PE
 - Ex. Geography
 - Once these trade-offs have been identified, parent comment will be solicited. Keep in touch with the district and your school board representative.
 - ****OF NOTE**** Ember has been posting on FB as to where we are this year on the “Park City School District” Facebook page.
- Hiring policy of Dual Language instructors from out of the country
 - Request was for a polygraph for all new DLI teachers. Bottom line: Cannot polygraph new DLI teachers as it is discriminating.
 - Worth noting - Background checks are completed at the district level. For DLI – they have to go through their embassy / consulate who goes through the Visas. Then the state of Utah – who look at pools and do a vetting process. We’re given a pool of candidates – who have been vetted by the state.
 - Bottom line: No changes to this process.
 - However – this moment has raised awareness of this issue. Increased training is being considered for implementation in partnership with Christina Sally from the Children’s Justice Center.
- Local levy for education - Tax increase

- There has been an approved tax increase to sustain the level of education in Park City. Additional background will be provided on Oct. 2 in a session with Todd Hauber. Overwhelming issue is that we do not have a sustainable multi-year budget – we continue to band-aid every three years. Also of note – the state has a cap on how much residents can be taxed. If our expenses continue to grow, we will have an unsustainable situation because we are close to reaching the max tax rate. We continue to add programs without trading off services.
 - Action – highly encourage PTO to designate a delegate to attend the school board meeting and report back to PTO. If you cannot go – these board meeting minutes and video are available online.
 - Note – community council is another place to send a delegate and report-back information.
- Summary – this is a perfect storm of issues. Open enrollment, addition of services, health insurance underestimated due to the rising health care situation, teacher compensation, and many, many more issues which impact this.
 - Many of these issues have working groups and action plans – like healthcare where we’re working with a broker to provide us a bid and see what other organizations are doing to explore options.
- What’s the plan? Todd Hauber just attended the National Business Administrators conference. He came back with some creative ideas and enthusiasm for reviewing programs. According to Ember, the district is putting together a plan for reviewing our programs. There are already two ‘hot spots’
 - Reading program – use of para-professionals – is this really the best bang for the buck
 - Staffing – (administration building to other schools)
- ****IDEA _ invite legislators to one of our meetings**** Riki to follow up to see if we can get legislators (Kraig Powell, Mel Brown) to come to our next meeting.

Learning From Each Other – PTO/A Representatives

- Amazon Smile vs Amazon Affiliate
 - Background – Jeremy Ranch financially is its own entity. Parleys Park is a PTA – and is an individual entity as well. All other schools are under one entity. As a fundraising mechanism – one is Amazon Smile, one is Amazon Affiliate. When people purchase things through Amazon.
 - Amazon Smile gives you .05% - there has to be a spending of \$20,000 for \$100 donation
 - Jeremy Ranch has become an Amazon Affiliate – which is between 4-8%. For a \$20,000 spend the entity would get ~\$1000.
 - Open Question –does it make sense for us (all organizations that are not individual entities) to become an Amazon Affiliate? And then we’d need to sort out how to share the funds raised.
 - Note – IF we want to become an Affiliate – then the District PTO will need to have a treasurer on board to allocate and account for this.
 - **DECISION: NO. The schools will Not Pursue this.**
 - Note – Trailside is doing a program – where they’re selling gift cards. Gift cards are pre-purchased from Whole Foods, Walmart, a few online outlets – and will do big pushes like back to school, Christmas time, etc.
- PTO/A Financials
 - Umbrella and individual 501 (c) 3
 - Collection and distribution of funds

- Questions/Rumors
 - *Is PE being removed? No – but it may be reduced.*
 - One idea is to be given credit for your extra-curricular activities and sports.
 - The downside – is that there is a proven benefit to exercising during the school day – which can impact attention, etc.
 - *Why cut out 4 and 5th Dibels testing?*
 - Was cut for all students who were benchmarked at the end of 3rd grade / 4th grade – entering 4th and 5th grade – who met or exceeded the standard. This procedure was modified – as it is an unnecessary burden, expense, etc. for these students and the school. Dibels is an indicator of reading. The students who were reading at or above grade-level were not tested this year and will not be tested in the future.
 - Safety issue at Trailside
 - From Missy (Trailside PTO president) –situation description: an email was sent to parents. It said – there was a student hiding from teachers and they couldn't find him. And the fire alarm was sounded to find him. It was “disruptive” to the learning environment.
 - Per Ember:
 - Our #1 priority is to keep the children safe. We value open communication. And this situation was openly communicated about. Was taken very seriously. There was an immediate pull-in with all resources.
 - We're a public school – so we are bound by the law of having to follow through and remediated and change behavior. We've pulled in community sources that we can.
 - Key learning – similar issue at Ecker Carnival. Raised the awareness for the PTO that if special ed students attend, either their parents or special ed staff needs to attend as well so that everyone is safe.

Next meeting – Nov 17. Deadline is Nov 2 for agenda suggestions.

Did NOT discuss: *Due to timing.

If there's time:

- Updated policies – Ember Conley
 - Facility use
 - Suicide
 - Home schooling