

PHS School Community Council

February 22, 2018 – 6:00PM

- **In Attendance:**

- Shane Owens - Vice Chair & Parent, Geoff Gregson – Parent, Ellen Slovacek – Teacher, Ashley Billingham – Counselor, Justin Keetch – Vice Principal, Sherri Wiltbank – District Representative, April Hemphill – Administrative Secretary

- **Welcome and Introductions**

- Shane welcomed all in attendance and the meeting was called to order.
- Shane led the attendees in introductions.

- **Review and Approve Minutes**

- Shane moved to accept the minutes from 12/7/17, Geoff seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

- **Administrative Change at Polaris**

- All members were notified that Lori Thorn, Principal, has been reassigned to the district office effective July 1, 2018.
- A new PHS principal will be announced within the next week.

- **Area of Greatest Academic Need**

- April 13th – must submit plan, district will accept
 - PHS faculty has been polled via electronic survey
 - Rank previous areas of focus
 - New areas of focus
 - Previous use of Land Trust money
 - Other information
 - The number one answer was attendance, 2/3 of the feedback listed basic skills as concern then technology a distant 3rd.
- Trackers continue to follow students using their tracking system. They categorize students in green, red and yellow areas to in order to prioritize the students who need help according to grades and attendance.
- The relationship between attendance & passing grades continues to correlate.
 - It was reported at the last meeting that those students who attend 80% of the time have a 10% failure rate.
 - Presently, students with 80% attendance or better have a 100% passing rate.
 - Attendance is however, currently lower than it was at the first of the year. Interventions have changed and truancy court has been dissolved which seems to be a large contributing factor.
 - Geoff asked how to motivate higher attendance.
 - Justin said that kids need vision for the future but it is difficult and hard to motivate students past the weekend.
 - Geoff asked about offering a class for students with high truanancies. Perhaps the class could present opportunities which are available to high school graduates, giving them motivation to be in attendance and on time.
 - Ashley commented that teachers work hard to encourage students to think of the future and are constantly presenting ideas to them but it is hard to get them to respond or care.
 - Justin explained the “School of Life” class that we offer 3 times each year here at PHS. He followed it up by stating that issue we have is that the students who need the most help, aren’t often in attendance.

- Several times throughout the meeting, the group brought up the idea of having bigger, short-term rewards for students to reach for.
 - Justin explained the Tracker reward program here at PHS. Students are awarded various prizes for achieving low tardies, low absences, high grades, improving their GPA, etc. Prizes are revealed after the students earn the rewards.
 - The possibility of revealing the prizes ahead of time – such as at the beginning of each mini-term – was discussed in order to give students something tangible to work for.
 - Justin said that the tardies are improving and that the Trackers are a big help.
 - Ashley said that 5th mini-term historically has the lowest grades but this year we have fewer F's than the previous 5 years. We haven't hit our goal but we are moving in the right direction.
 - Shane said Natalie is thriving at Polaris. She loves the smaller classes and is thrilled about the rewards she is earning as she works hard in class and has good attendance.
 - Geoff commented that Isaac hasn't ever liked school but he likes PHS. He has lower anxiety here with the smaller classroom sizes and has said it is the best school he has ever been to.
- **School Improvement Plan Update**
 - Next step – Justin will work with staff and get a plan out to the SCC via email.
 - The deadline for the budget and goals draft is March 30th.
- **Comprehensive Counseling Guidance Program Update**
 - Ashley mentioned the upcoming Alpine District wide ACT testing day which will take place on Tuesday, February 27, 2018.
 - Ashley also informed the group about our first PHS Career Day which is scheduled in March.
 - Students will rotate through 4 presentations of their choice to learn about different career options.
- **Items from Council Members**
 - Sherri asked how the PHS crisis plan and the sheets provided from the district are working.
 - Sherri noted that the feedback they have received has been that the terms “Lock Down” and “Lock Out” are too similar.
 - Justin briefed the group on what the PHS emergency plans are.
 - Shane shared the previous night's events where a student in Wasatch school district put it on social media that several named students would be harmed if they attended school the following day. The student making the threats was taken into custody. The comment was made that it is very good to hear student safety is being taken seriously.
 - Sherri asked about an off-site emergency location.
 - Justin named UVU Place, the park across from the school, the church nearby and if necessary, Vineyard Elementary as our emergency evacuation locations.
- **Adjourn**
 - The next meeting is tentative and is currently on the calendar for May 3, 2018.