

Seward Schools Site-Based Council
Meeting Minutes | December 12, 2013 | 6:30 PM
Seward High School, Seward Middle School, Seward Elementary



Present: Mica Van Buskirk, Amy Hankins, Nadene Brown, Jason Bickling, Maya Moriarty, Maille Moriarty, Raylynn Zweifel, Myla Liljemark, Kelli Moore, Celeste Lemme, Emily Brockman Trevan Walker, David Kingsland, Stephanie Mullaly, Leigh Ray, Laura Hensley, Wolfgang Kurtz, Nicole Lyons

Call to Order & Welcome: Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Welcome to everyone present!

Minutes: *approved*

Agenda: *approved, with changes (reordering)*

Public comment: *none*

New Business:

Site Council Goals (Mica Van Buskirk, Maya Moriarty)

All present move into groups representing the three schools (with principal, parent member, community member, teacher representative); Maya introduces the activity and explains that groups are to discuss positives and improvements for their school. The groups will reconvene to find commonalities from which the Site Council can create a set of goals pertinent to all three schools. Scheduled for 30 minutes.

Reporting: Myla Liljemark for Middle School (keyword: global competency)

1. globally aware/self-aware
2. work ethic
3. study skills (test, tech, problem solving)
4. communication skills (public, personal)
5. exposed to a variety of opportunities, activities (curricular, co-curricular)
6. "Citizenship Project" (individual, peer-assessed, curriculum integrated, community partners)

Reporting: Trevan Walker for High School

1. advisory (every kid has at least one adult that knows him well)
2. dual certification in all teachers
3. hard work
4. expand courses to accommodate
5. APS (AK Performance Scholarship in Math/Science; LA/SS isn't available because we don't have a fourth Social Studies class to offer as there is no room for it in master schedule)

6. technology integration
7. expand hybrid high school model (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Reporting: Mica Van Buskirk for Elementary

1. Lego Robotics, Hour of Code
2. better communication is happening
3. STEAM school designation? staff development
4. more community resources, i.e., relationship with local businesses
5. engineering firms visit classrooms when they come to town
6. financial literacy
7. hiring - qualifications match our STEAM goals (preferred qualifications in hiring)
8. career day

Myla - synthesizes it. Commonalities:

1. technology
2. business partnership
3. exposure to a variety of opportunities (career day; college application practice; study skills)
4. opportunities in courses (i.e., that 4th SS course the HS needs)

Differences: (none stand out)

Plan/Goals:

1. Business/Community Partnerships (this hits a lot of the above goals): "Foster stronger relationships between schools and business/community partnerships."
 - a. compare with other Districts (action step)
 - b. create committee to look into this (action step)
2. Staff hiring (grants, programs)
3. Technology (grants like iPads in schools, equipment, corporate sponsors)

6th Grade Move Planning Process (Jason Bickling)

In process (There will be meetings held one hour prior to each SSSBC meeting beginning in January)

- Meeting 1: staffing & physical space use
- Staffing info hasn't come down from KPBSD yet, and when it does, we can move forward with planning.
- Meeting 2 - schedule/course offerings
- Meeting 3 - transitions (because we'll be moving two classes up next year), logistics (busing, sports)
- It will be advertised publicly to remain transparent and to invite involvement.
- "We're collecting info right now to know our options and to lay out the big picture."

- Jason - certified staffing is 7.5 FTE
- Must maintain flexibility in our planning & hiring because we're looking 3-4 years down the road at a time.
- David - District is deciding how/when to advertise the job(s) (i.e., internal first, then public). All projections to date say that the Elementary School won't lose a specialist position.

Old Business:

By-Law Review (Maya Moriarty)

Because this topic needs to go back to committee level, Myla Liljemark motioned to table it, which was seconded by Raylynn Zwiefel. Motion is tabled.

High School Reports:

Emily Brockman (Student Representative)

- Wrestling left for state today (several qualified)
- Skiing waits for snow
- BB practice started, and first game this weekend @ Houston
- Debate - tourney at Dimond HS, very successful
- Cheerleading - going strong (head cheerleader is part of pep club, and works with me as activities director)
- Put up the holiday "bush" in the commons (not really a Christmas tree, to be politically correct).
- Pep club/rally - recognize achievements of students, after winter break
- Concert - The Deadly Gentlemen - feel good tunes, middle school students came up

Trevan Walker (Principal)

- Travis Price, coach C-Team boys, and Jake Collings - girls C-Team (BB)
- Lisa Morris is cheerleading coach!
- Spirit Week - ugly Christmas sweater day coming up!
- Last day is 19th then winter break.
- Choir Concert

Middle School Reports:

Maille Moriarty (Student Representative)

- Boys went to Homer and lost (done for the season).
- New coach - got a buy, playing Saturday at Skyview
- VB, Wrestling - start after break
- No Nordic skiing due to last of numbers.
- Debate team - did a debate during lunch today and Tuesday.
- We went to HS for a Deadly Gentlemen concert.
- Choir did a performance.

- Amy Hankins did pottery with us.
- Foods class - Thanksgiving meals for families in need.
- Watching a Christmas movie in afternoon on Dec. 19th.

Jason Bickling (Principal):

- Check out display case of pottery that students did with Amy Hankins.
- Foods class: Carlyn Nichols thought of doing a meal for those in need for Thanksgiving. Kids had fun! Other cooking activities included Caribou stew, smoothies, breakfast, and cooking using ingredients from scratch. (Community grant pay for supplies. Food is often donated by families of students.)
- Last day of school before winter break includes a special movie – it’s a tradition.
- MS/HS Choir performance last night was awesome.

Elementary School Report:

David Kingsland (Principal)

- Basketball finished last week.
- Music concert - funded by Band/Boosters organization. (Bluegrass)
- K-2 Winter Concert & Band
- Spelling Bee - last week (Joshua Park going to Anchorage)
- SeaLife Center got a grant from Exxon Mobile - overnight program being offered to one whole class.
- 4-day week next week.
- 5th Grade held a fundraiser at the Christmas Bazaar and raised money for trip to Anchorage in Spring (thanks Amy Hankins - Sgraffito Tools).
- Hour of Code

Reports School Board Representative, PTA Representative:

School Board

The Board representative, Lynn Hohl, was absent. Mica Van Buskirk, who went to work session, reports that she has a packet with budget info for next year. She says it states that the District will be cutting 1.4 million out of next year’s budget. This will be accomplished, in part, through the following:

- Increase PTR by .5
- Decrease in purchases of technology equip, supplies, software
- Decrease in office staffing, utilities, travel costs

PTA (Maya Moriarty)

- PTA, not PTSA
- Sandy sent out email about membership renewals.
- Approved up to \$2,000 for bringing African Acrobats in 2015. Asking SAC and SCF for \$.

Balto School Presentation:

Laura Hensley

- 95% design (architecture firm cost/design), science curriculum is done, working on ELA, math curriculum is about 50% done
- Stop by the office - we're open!
- Moving fast. Charter school within the District is our leaning.
- Projected opening date: Fall 2015

Round Table:

- Amy - African Acrobats, 2 school performances (combined MS/HS, one EI) and 1 community performance
- Nadine - worried about standards/common core. Wrote 25 questions to Dr. Atwater (September) and got an answer.
- Maya - by-laws committee, lets choose our dates
- Mullaly - 14 Acts of Kindness in 14 Days (done at EI and MS)
- Trevan - civic participation (high school students who were in background)
- Lemme - happy with K-2 concert (kids were super excited). Next year, is it possible to not have it in Elementary because it was too crowded? My daughter couldn't get through crowd to go to the bathroom!
- Mica – said she sent out a newsletter without site council permission (hope that was ok); class size (Seward schools are largest as far as class size goes compared to other district schools).

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM

Next meeting will be on January 9, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., in the Seward Middle School Professional Development room.