

Seward Schools Site-Based Council

APRIL 10, 2014

Seward Elementary | Seward Middle | Seward High

Call to Order: 6:35 PM

Present: Trevan Walker, Jason Bickling, Mica Van Buskirk, Maille Moriarty, Maya Moriarty, Myla Liljemark, Celeste Lemme, Stephanie Mullaly, Alan Nickell, Reuben Mirand, Lori Wolfe

Excused: Stephanie Cronin, Linda Ferkinhoff, Amy Hankins, Laura Hensley, David Kingsland, Kelli Moore, Michael Moriarty, Von Terry, Raylynn Zweifel

Approval of Minutes: approved with changes

Additions to the Agenda: none

Public Comments: Maya said that Ken Carr was going to be here and might be later, at which time, we'll let him introduce himself as new community representative.

Mica said that Ms. Lind emailed the following news about Seward's Debate Drama and Forensics team: It was recognized by the Alaska State Legislature and received certificates honoring the team for its outstanding performance at the State DDF tournament, as well as the team's growth and hard work.

Reports from Student Representatives

Middle School report by Maille Moriarty

- 8th grade boys interested in BB going to a banquet
- Archery – nobody qualified for state competition even though we had top finishers. Grant for archery in schools (second year). To compete, you must have team of 12 with a 4:8 gender ratio. We didn't meet the criteria, so instead, we competed at the individual level: Creanna Witcomb's score was 11th in state middle school division (one spot from qualifying). We could have gone on had we had a team.
- SBAs are over.
- Arts in the Parks program currently going on this week and next.
- April 16 – early release
- April 18 – no school

- April 21 – 7th grade goes on KFT boat tour
- Marc Swanson will be presenting on April 11th to social studies classes on the history of Seward & Moose Pass.

High School – none

Old Business

- *Site Council Goal Discussion - Honors Diploma. Nikiski is the only other school in KPBSD that has it (Mica reads their requirements).*

Trevan replies: The Alaska Performance Scholarship has similar requirements. Philosophically we can certainly pursue this, but we'd have to work hard to make it our own. Lets form a committee to handle implementation. Committee should look at KPC as well to see how it might fit into this picture.

Mica replies: KPBSD/KPC merging classes via a subsidy from the Jump Start program in which the Borough funds 75% of a student's class at KPC. Now they'll bus kids from KPBSD schools to KPC to make this happen. 110 classes being offered in Homer. Seward has 3 classes. Ron Long (who is on the KPC Board) thinks we need more KPC courses physically here in Seward. Can we bring this to play for an Honors Diploma? KPC Board meeting in Seward next Thursday – we should go and voice that we want more classes here.

Maya replies: Let's write a letter of support to present at the meeting.

Mica replies: Trevan told me that the high school wants to offer economics, advanced science, math, and coding/programming. Who can teach these locally?

Trevan replies: One must have a Masters in each particular content area to become an adjunct at KPC. Spoke with Jackie Marshall (Seward's KPC representative), and she's supportive. Regarding the Jump Start program, now juniors are eligible, which means more students can profit from it. This would fit our extended school day model as we could offer college classes daily between 2:30 and 4:30.

Mica replies: *Dr. Atwater told me that he might be able to find funds to pay for an oceanography class -- potentially offered by NPS Ocean Science Learning Center.*

Other Discussion: *Could Jump Start funding go to AVTEC for the benefit of students? Public dollars to vocational school is currently in legislation. Also, AVTEC would need to adapt their model to accommodate high school students.*

HONORS DIPLOMA COMMITTEE: will meet May 22nd at noon. (Location TBD) Members include Trevan Walker, Mica Van Buskirk, and possibly the following people: Martha Flemming, Stephanie Cronin, and Bob Barnwell. Myla Liljemark suggests extending the committee to people outside of SSSBC.

- *Community Member Seat Appointment* – Ken Carr, motioned, moved (three year term)
- *Key Performance Indicators Response* – no comments

New Business

- May Council Election Committee will be meeting April 16th. The teaching staff elects their own representative. SSSBC elects non-employee representatives. Our committee needs to recruit and nominate by May 1st so we can finalize it at our May meeting. Nominations will close by May 10th and a vote will happen afterward.
- Hiring for 14-15 School Year. The middle and elementary schools will share a new SPED employee. The high school is interviewing for SS/Generalist teacher. The elementary school just finished up interviewing for a new 2nd grade position.
- Scheduling for 14-15 School Year. Middle school scheduling has been covered thoroughly at other meetings. The high school is still working out its

scheduling and has been through several drafts already. Power School runs reports to help with scheduling. At the elementary level, classroom schedules will generally remain the same, but we will be working with specialists to tweak their schedules to add some transition time between their classes.

- KPBSD Budget regarding the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR). Budget set to approved Monday at school board meeting. PTR has been increased. SSSBC should go on record with the School Board about not solving budget woes by increasing PTR via a letter (motioned, seconded).
- Legislative Update: Looks like schools will get more money, but not much. The increase in funding will not set PTR back to previous level. Money for safety has been approved, and will bring improvements such as double lock sets, card reader, buzz-in devices.
- Site Council Report for 2013-2014: end-of-year report draft will be ready at next meeting and will include information about SSSBC activities regarding its bylaws, election modifications, reconfiguration, traffic pattern (gate), and goals.

Reports from Administrators, School Board Representative, & PTSA Representative

Elementary School

(Given by Leigh Ray in the principal's absence)

- Our final morning reading program (Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads) was this morning. We partnered with the Boys & Girls Club to pass out prizes and free books.
- A music concert (grades 3-6) will be next Thursday. Students head to their classrooms at 5:45. The program begins at 6 PM.
- The soccer field is getting reconditioned this summer and will be shut down during June and July. The soil will be turned over and leveled, and new grass will be planted.

- Art for Parks is in full swing with Rangers CJ, Luke, and Fiona, as well as local artists from the high school and community.
- Staff members in the news: Terri McKnight has been awarded BP Teacher of Excellence; Valarie Kingsland has been awarded the Ken Haycock Award for Exceptional Professional Promise, San Jose State University

Middle School

(Given by Jason Bickling)

- SBAs are over!
- Working with the elementary school to schedule time for both 5th and 6th graders to separately come up for transitions camps. These camps help remove anxiety because students practice a day at middle school by locating their lockers and walking through their schedules. Also arranging for the 6th graders to join us on the last day of school for a picnic.
- To accommodate the 6th grade, classroom moves have been scheduled. The PD room is getting turned into a classroom as the tech coach position is being cut. There will still be a smaller PD room elsewhere in the building. Connections will move to a different room as well.
- As part of the capital improvement goals, we hope to have the mound (just prior to the first entrance to the school) removed/leveled and some trees cut down so that our school can have a playable field (on lists, not approved yet).
- We'll offer archery next year, including during evenings during the winter (open gym). We'd like to get kids to qualify for state competitions. Archery is one of the most unused college scholarships.

High School

(Given by Trevan Walker)

- Arsenic & Old Lace play is coming up.
- A popular movie is being shown this week at the high school. This will be a bimonthly event as we have acquired the licenses to do this. However,

according to school board policy, there must be a related academic reason to show a PG-13 movie. Funds will be used in two ways: the NHS charter is to raise funds for charity, or the money will go to the school's Theater Program. The snack shop will also be open during movies.

- April 10th – advanced education external review committee finished today. Man hours into accreditation process = 1000 hours (approx.). Concluded with a recommendation for accreditation.
- Prom is Saturday.
- Early release is Wednesday.
- Movie is this Thursday evening.
- Seward Prevention Coalition is bringing the play, Winter Bear—a play about suicide, to the high school's theater on April 23rd with an in-school showing for middle and high schools as well as an evening show for the public.
- Brooke Estes has been named Masonic Student of the Year.
- May 5th the School Board meeting will be in Seward.
- Volleyball coach job open.
- Pete Ferkinhoff is retiring, and Casey Skinner is leaving too, so two student services aides positions are opening for next year.

School Board Report

(Given by Mica Van Buskirk in Lynn Hohl's absence)

- The new PE curriculum is currently in front of board. Mark Fraad was asked about it but has not yet responded.

PTA Report

(Given by Maya Moriarty)

- PTA had no quorum so there is nothing to report. Must have 10% of membership show up to have a quorum.

ROUNDTABLE

- Stephanie Mullaly: Our school nurses are offering a babysitting CPR/first aid course.
- Myla Liljemark: Jr. Achievement next week (jobs, credit cards, etc.) so someone from FNB is coming in to talk for 6 days. Also, there is an anti-smoking program underway. Marc Swanson's documentary series called "That Was Then, This is Now" is fabulous. He created a secondary education curriculum along with this documentary series. Marc will be visiting my class to teach about primary sources and show his films.
- Alan Nickell: Check out this technology for smart phones at <http://www.spritzinc.com>. It fires words at you rapidly.
- Maya: The Rec Room (a Seward Prevention Coalition initiative) provides a fun, safe places for kids. Can we get kids to go? Put a sign on the boardwalk and post it on Facebook. Perhaps incorporate into classroom newsletters as well. Also, American Red Cross babysitting training available in Seward via PTA funding possibly.
- Mica Van Buskirk: There is a work session about a proposed recreation facility for Seward on April 22nd at noon at the library via the Seward Prevention Coalition and the city's recreation department. Could we have a community pool, meeting rooms, a ball field, and a track? Stay tuned for an upcoming survey.

Adjourned at 8:38 PM

Next Meeting: May 2014, 6:30 PM (Middle School PD room)