

# Seward Schools Site-Based Council

## Meeting Minutes

Seward High School, Seward Middle School, Seward Elementary

January 9, 2014

**Present:** Mica Van Buskirk, Sharon Kim, Von Terry, Laura Hensley, Reuben Miranda, Alan Nickell, Kelli Moore, Amy Hankins, Stephanie Mullaly, Raylynn Zwiefel, David Kingsland, Jason Bickling, Trevan Walker, Stephanie Cronin, Leigh Ray

**Excused:** Maya Moriarty, Mike Moriarty, Celeste Lemme, Lori Wolfe, Nadene Brown, Myla Liljemark

**Meeting called to order:** 6:30 PM

**Welcome:** Welcome to everyone present.

**Minutes:** Approved minutes with changes.

### **Additions to the Agenda:**

- Trevan Walker to new business: celebration recognition at SHS (motioned and approved)

**Public comment:** none

**Reports from Student Representatives:** none

### **Old Business**

**Bylaw Review:** The committee met again and decided not to change the mission statement but to leave it as it is for now and change it sometime in the future. Amy Hankins suggests making this a goal of the Site Council.

In a hand-out, old bylaws are typed in blue and the newest recommendation from committee is typed in black. Highlights in yellow are off-the-record comments.

1. *Consensus Making Process* – Do we want to have a clear definition in the bylaws? Regarding Section III of the bylaws (Decision Making), Site Council received recommendations from the PTA regarding the last statement of first paragraph. The statement reads as follows: “All SSSBC members agree to support the final decision.” This also brought to question the last sentence

of the second paragraph, which reads, “Once consensus or a vote has been reached, members are responsible for supporting and explaining the decision.”

- a. *Comments from Trevan Walker:* Folks that contribute to that process need to defend that process. We don’t want to disrupt the integrity of the body to which we all belong.
  - b. *General comments:* Strike last sentence of first paragraph but keep last sentence of 2nd paragraph. Also, add the word ‘process’ to the end of the last sentence of 2nd paragraph.
  - c. *Clarifying the middle statement of the second paragraph:* “members should represent their constituencies.” Do we want to be more specific, or does this limit the scope of the representation? We decided to leave statement as it is.
  - d. *Comments from Trevan Walker:* Courageous leadership is what is needed. Members make the best decisions as leaders and should be trusted.
2. *Section IV – SSSBC Membership – Should the composition be changed (more members added)?*  
The Principals said no, as did several other council members.
- a. *Selection Process Discussion:* Move elections to May as opposed to having them during conferences in October.
  - b. *Terms:* Amy Hankins asks about staggering the terms of the three parent representatives so that one parent per year expires. A long discussion followed pointing out the pros and cons of this idea. The discussion ended with most not in favor.
  - c. *Removal and Replacement:* Strike the last part of the last sentence of the second paragraph (“subject to the approval of the membership”). The Council Secretary will add to the top of the minutes an *excused absence* list.
3. *Section V – Officers – Is the list of job descriptions necessary, and if so, do we need to refine the duties descriptions?*
- a. *Comments on job descriptions:* We need to agree on the job descriptions.
  - b. *Comments on agenda setting:* Whose job is it? Trevan Walker suggests that the principals set the agenda. In the past, the agenda could have been streamlined if certain items were addressed by the principals alone. The principals are the first filter or the gatekeepers of information. Principals may decide to keep an issue internal, but will bring items to the Site Council as needed. Jason Bickling states that efficiency during Council meetings is important. Others mention that meetings tend to get off agenda. Mica Van Buskirk does not agree that principals should set the agenda. Von Terry states

that this requires more discussion, and added that hot topics definitely need to come to Council as people don't always feel comfortable going directly to a principal. He states that if principals set the agenda, it "shifts the mindset of those who have the power." The topic ended with Mica agreeing to send the agenda to the principals for streamlining prior to meetings.

4. *Finally*, site council needs to make a decision about whether or not the principals can vote.

**Site Council Goals** - tabled.

## **New Business**

***Middle School Reconfiguration Planning Meeting Report:*** Jason Bickling held a meeting at 5:30 p.m. (in the Middle School PD Room) to discuss the reconfiguration. Multiple hand-outs were available at the Site Council meeting. Please contact Jason with any questions.

***Celebration Recognition at SHS:*** To be part of the renowned SHS Wall of Fame, SHS students or teams (current) had to have won a state championship and shown athletic prowess. Some wish to broaden the criteria for getting on the Wall of Fame, noting that there isn't any way to recognize academic or political achievements. Some wondered if this demonstrated that SHS only values athleticism. Case in point: Someone was nominated for the Wall of Fame but had not won a state championship. Nevertheless, his accomplishment was highly worthy. The issue was way bigger "than I could answer," said Trevan Walker, so he brought it to a staff meeting. A brilliant recommendation came out of that meeting, but it breaks from tradition, which is why it has been brought to the Site Council. The idea is to change it from Wall of Fame to **Wall of Champions**, allowing us to recognize those with achievements that are not athletic in nature. We created a committee to set criteria for the new wall (application process, choosing inductees, etc.). The first meeting is next Tuesday.

## **Reports from Administrators, School Board Representative, & PTA Representative**

### ***Elementary School Report***

*Given by David Kingsland*

- Mark Fraad is leading the state program, "Be Safe," in our school.
- Jenna Fabian and Nickole Lyon are continuing the state program, "Healthy Futures Challenge."
- Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads – brought in approximately 110 people this morning.
- Skiing begins next under the leadership of Bob and MaryLynn Barnwell.
- Grades 4 – 6 will compete in a Geography Bee next week.

- We will have school on January 20<sup>th</sup> due to a bad weather day.

### ***Middle School Report***

*Given by Jason Bickling*

- Early release day is January 22.
- Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up.
- Next week is our Geography Bee.
- Angie Hammer is the volleyball coach.
- Wrestling - Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Borough tournament.
- No skiing this year.
- We have a student teacher (for SPED certification).

### ***High School Report***

*Given by Trevan Walker*

- Student council set Feb. 22 as the Winter Formal date.
- JV tourney this weekend starting at 1 pm tomorrow.
- Feb. 28 to March 1 is the Ocean Bowl. (Phyllis Shoemaker is the go-to person.)
- Seahawk Classic takes place the first full weekend in February

### ***KPBSD School Board Report***

Lynn Hohl wasn't present to report. Note that there is a budget hearing in Seward on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. Increases in PTR will be discussed.

School Board Agenda includes science and social studies curriculum changes, including the addition of content literacy standards to them.

**PTSA Report:** none

#### **Roundtable:**

Von Terry: Liked hearing about the iSafe program in the school that his Kindergarten daughter participated in. His other daughter participated in the Be Safe program. Glad to hear about skiing in MS next year.

Alan Nickell: Regarding the discussion about who sets the agenda and who should be writing it, I refer to our handbook. It says that the principals remain the sole administrators of the schools, and no

matter what we come up with, they're the deciding body. Therefore, they should come up with the agenda. I support that these guys set our agenda. It's their job to come up with questions for us, and not for us to come up with work for them.

Kelli Moore: Thanks for all you do.

Trevan Walker: I'm aware that other administrators in KPBSD set agendas for their site councils. It's the norm. I would say that the current configuration in Seward is unique in the district.

Stephanie Cronin: I was not at least meeting so I couldn't share then. I took 30+ kids to UAA in December to explore how to apply for college and how to choose a major. We toured an engineering school.

Leigh Ray: A film crew is coming to Seward Elementary to feature two teachers who use ClassDojo, which is an online behavioral management tool.

Mica Van Buskirk: We can choose whether or not the principals can vote.

**Meeting adjourned at: 8:37 PM**

**Next meeting:** February 13th at 6:30 p.m., Middle School Professional Development Room