

Seward Schools Site-Based Council
Meeting Minutes | May 9, 2013 | 6:30 pm
Seward High, Seward Middle, Seward Elementary

Present: Stephanie Cronin, David Kingsland, Jason Bickling, Leigh Ray, Linda Ferkinhoff, Maya Moriarty, Amy Hankins, Mica Van Buskirk, Raylynn Zweifel, Trevan Walker, Reuben Miranda, Brian Ray, Laura Hensley

Call to Order: 6:39 PM

Approval of Minutes: Approved.

Additions to the Agenda: none

Public comment: none

Middle School Student Report: No representatives present

High School Student Report: No representatives present

Old Business:

High School Football Update (Trevan Walker)

Fourth quarter grades are not available by tonight's meeting, and those grades determine who will be starting on August 5th. However, Trevan seeks a site council recommendation and requests it be done via email after grades are posted. He recommends on 22 players remain eligible during the whole season.

Coach Kelly and five others will travel to the Central Peninsula for referee training, which means that there will be an Eastern Peninsula Referee Association.

Maya Moriarty asks, "What would you like to see from the Site Council, Trevan?"

Trevan replies, "I'm all about opportunities for kids. For those who are committed and dedicated to football, it would be tragic if they didn't have the opportunity to play. The fan in me says 'full steam ahead,' but the pragmatist says 'let's be cautious that we might not be able to field a team.'"

Amy Hankins motions that if the school can produce the numbers of eligible kids, we'll support going forward with a team.

Mica asks about a stipend for cheerleading, and Trevan replies that a basketball cheerleading coach stipend exists, and so there might be a football one too.

Regarding Amy's motion, Mica says the Site Council supports a team if eligibility is met, and Trevan says grades should be in by May 23rd, allowing us to run an eligibility check then.

Mica requests numbers from Coach Kelly and receives a text message moments later saying that 34 students signed up (both high school and middle school), but that eligibility hasn't been run yet.

Leigh Ray motions that we wait and decide by email.

Amy motions that if they have the grades and numbers, we'll support it. Reuben seconds it.

Leigh retracts her motion.

Mica announces that Amy's motion passed.

Amy - want opportunity for girls who want to cheer.

6th Grade Move Update/Current Schedules

Trevan reports the changes at the High School: Carlyn Nichols is moving to the middle school full time. At the high school, a FTE math/science position is being advertised. Stephanie Cronin will be teaching engineering to lead the S.T.E.M. movement (and not algebra, which will be taught by AI Plan instead). Algebraic modeling/statistics might be offered as well—freeing up another section for Stephanie to teach physics. Two sections of biology would be pulled from AI Plan's schedule, which would mean the new teacher would teach predominately physical/life sciences. Gary Benson's position has been filled as well.

Jason Bickling says all teachers are hired at the Middle School. For the 2013-2014 school year, there will be no noticeable differences.

New Business:

KPBSD Student/Parent Handbook

District wants a recommendation from Site Councils about placing the KPBSD Student/Parent Handbook exclusively online. Maya states that it is good to "go green." Jason points out that not all families have Internet access. Leigh motions that it should be online, except signature pages should be sent home as hard copies, and some hard copies made available in all school offices. Linda Ferkinhoff seconds the motion.

SSSBC End of Year Report (Mica Van Buskirk)

Mica will draft it and email it out, asking for input.

Meeting Schedule (Mica Van Buskirk)

Mica advocates for longer meetings and more meetings in order to cover all business effectively. She did not receive support for this, and the principals pointed out that it is due to contract hours. Others suggested that the Site Council follow Robert's Rules to make meetings more efficient and tighter. Additionally, it was suggested that the agenda needs to be precisely followed.

New Members (Mica Van Buskirk)

The discussion continues about how to bring in more community representatives.

Maya motioned to appoint Laura Hensley to take Jerry Olive's position as community representative (to fill his unexpired term). Leigh seconded the motion.

In the past, Site Council elections occur in October at Parent/Teacher conferences. To bring in more members, it was suggested that elections occur during schools' August Open Houses.

Reports from Administrators, School Board Representative, PTSA Representative

Elementary School Report, *David Kingsland*

- We are interviewing for a 6th grade position
- PTSA bike/walk to school is coming up.
- Saturday is the band concert.
- We recently finished a 5/6th grade archery unit, which was funded by grants (pooled with the Middle School).
- We just had the 11th annual math bowl (Thank you to Amy Hankins, the MC).
- We had a lock-down drill with police presence. All went well.
- Awards assembly will be May 20th in morning (mainly for older students), 6th grade speeches, and choral reading/improv by Augusta Lind's students.
- Field Day is the last day of school, and Augusta is looking for volunteers.

Middle School Report, *Jason Bickling*

- BP Teacher of Excellence is our own Myla Liljemark. It's cool to recognize great teachers.
- Our students recently took a Kenai Fjords boat tour to study marine science.
- We'll be hosting a drama presentation next Wednesday at 1:50 PM.
- We are proud to have a speech and debate team as we're the only middle school in the district with such a team. Out of 20 teams in Anchorage - one team took 6th and one took 12th. Alden took 6th of 60 students. Team is growing (11 next year).
- Last day of school - all school picnic!

High School Report, *Trevan Walker*

- The spring drama production was awesome. It revolutionized set design! They rotated sets in a matter of seconds. Mark Teckenbrock thought up the idea, which was engineered by Ron Hemstock, then decorated by Bethany's art class and Mark's theater class. Even math classes got involved as they used geometry theorems for set.
- Seward Invitational was last week, and the Borough tournament.
- Next weekend is State.
- In just two weeks, it is graduation!
- Breighley Sexton's students will perform a concert Saturday night.
- Monday is the last girls soccer game.
- Senior night will also be Monday.
- We have a new tradition! The Senior Center offered to make breakfast for high school seniors!
- May 21st is graduation in the gym at 7 pm - with guest speaker (keynote) Stephanie Cronin.
- Sean Dusek, Lynn Hohl, and Tim Navarre will be the guests of honor at graduation.
- The award ceremony and scholarship presentations is on the 20th during the evening (Last year, we handed out \$56,000 from local contributions.)
- Class of 1961 was the state runner up, and they visited the high school and found their trophy from '61. The coach came in on his walker and offered new scholarship!! We'll be handing that out this year.
- We'll be having a barbeque on Wednesday, May 22nd to close out school.

PTSA Report, *Maya Moriarty*

- Bike or walk to school event is tomorrow.
- Garage sale will be May 25th. Drop off donations at the High School.
- We have officially changed our name to the PTA.
- Teacher appreciation day was Monday and was well received!
- We voted on the PTA letter of support for SSSBC for Middle School enrollment issue. Historically, the two organizations support each other.

Round Table:

Laura Hensley: Friends of the Jesse Lee Home have an open public reception on May 31st, 5 - 7 PM, at the library to unveil our 35% design. We are seeking feedback. We are also recruiting for two AmeriCorps positions – each a year long, with a stipend and award at the end of service. We are not officially a charter school with KPBSD yet, but we've had meetings. We are weighing our options and in talks. We are also working with the City of Seward (which owns the building). We are hoping to be a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) school.

Gretchen Lindquist: A community project that Amy Hankins has helped with is to clear-coat with automotive clear-coat the backside of the playground that is overlooking the skate park (to beautify the bathroom).

Maya Moriarty: PTA is experiencing lower membership numbers. Membership drive may be needed? This could be aided by putting a plug for the PTA in school newsletters and classroom newsletters, noting that money goes to help students, and that teachers can be reimbursed \$150 for art supplies.

Mica Van Buskirk: We need more outreach for SSSBC—perhaps giving highlights of agenda prior to our meetings. Also, what should be worked on over summer, where does the Site Council want to go? Can we nominate new members at school Open Houses?

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting: September 12th, 2013, 6:30 - 8:30 at the Middle School PD room