South Hills Middle School

Community Council - *Minutes*

October 6, 2016

DRAFT

ATTENDEES: Mary Hanson, Ben Jameson, Andrea Lefgren, Megan McDougal, Georgia Wing, Tyler Jones, Julie Walker, Camille Jensen, Lisa Tobler, Windi Bray (visitor), Amanda Bollinger, Holly Perry, Trisha Haslam, and Becca Hyer.

1. Call to Order - Camille Jensen
2. Review of Rules of Order & Procedures
3. Selection of Vice Chair. Becca Hyer moved that Trisha Haslam be Vice Chair, this was seconded by Amanda Bollinger and was voted on unanimously.
4. Safe Walking Routes - Tyler Jones: The only addition is the path that goes into the neighborhood from the south side of the field. No additional recommendations or concerns were noted by the Council.
5. Dress Code Issues - Parent Guest Windi Bray. (Mr. Jameson asked that we speak in general terms.)
6. Ms. Bray doesn’t want to change the dress code, just how we *address* dress code issues with students. She is a nurse who has worked with victims of rape for years and she is concerned about the approach. “Girls should never be sexualized.” This is not just a problem at our school. “Rape culture” is nation/world wide. Here are specific concerns:
7. What we do now, in middle school, affects students down the road.
8. Girls are told to cover-up and they may not report rape later because they have been given the idea that it’s their fault, that the way they dressed invited it.
9. JSD’s dress code is outdated and latest trends need to be considered, perhaps reviewed annually.
10. Personal biases should not be allowed.
11. Dress code is unevenly applied throughout the district.
12. Turning clothes “inside out” is like the “Scarlet Letter.”
13. Parents need to be notified so they can address it at home.
14. If this [holes in clothing] is an ongoing problem, there may be financial concerns within the family.
15. Dress code needs to be applied evenly within the school.
16. Duct tape over the holes in the jeans has irritated the skin.

2. Questions and comments

1. Q: What is the “line?” A: Mid-thigh
2. Q: How often do you dress code students? A. We hand out 20-30 dress code violations per day. SHMS Administration is caught between parents who want to know and those who don’t. Most dress code issues are removal of hats and then distressed jeans above mid-thigh.
3. Q. How are kids informed about the dress code? A. We have a standards assembly at the beginning of the year. The student handbook is discussed in all TA classes as well. Each student is given a student handbook.
4. Comment: There needs to be a hierarchy of consequences. To a degree, this is so. The school does not take away academic time (in-school or out-of-school suspension) for a dress code issue unless a student is showing significant insubordination.
5. Q. What do we say when kids ask “why?” A. This is where we need to be really careful, it’s *how we address the issue*, the dress code is a rule, end of story. School is the students’ place of employment right now. We are trying to teach them soft skills in that we dress up for work – as befitting the days’ activities as the JSD policy states.
6. Q. How are we educating parents? A. We can certainly draft a letter to send home to first and repeat offenders. It’s usually the same handful of kids. A phone call home is the best bet, especially if we ask the students to change or alter their clothing.
7. Q. What are the most common violations? A. Distressed jeans, hoodies with the hood up, hats.

F. Digital Citizenship (see handout “Digital Citizenship: South Hills Middle School 2016-17)

1. We are working on a curriculum for TA classes.
2. The District provides firewalls and content filtering.
3. We have a non-profit group called Netsmartz put on an assembly every year and they constantly update their message.
4. Teachers are up and moving around the room when students are on computers.

G. Health & Wellness Plan (see handout)

1. The school nutrition plan complies with federal, state and local requirements.
2. Vending machines have healthy food and beverage choices.
3. The school encourages the use of healthy food items or non-food items for rewards.
4. Students received physical fitness instruction based on the Utah State Healthy Lifestyles Core Curriculum.
5. All fitness equipment and facilities are safe, properly maintained, and frequently inspected.

H. School Accountability

1. PACE report card measures our students’ proficiencies in math, science and English Language Arts.
2. Legislative School Grading Report Card. We earned a “B” but because 65% of schools scored an A or B, State law requires that USBE adjust the grade scale by 5 percentage points, which moved the line and our grade changed to a “C”.
3. Trust Lands Discussion (see handout on school website)

Next meetings:

* November 17th
* February 2nd
* March 2nd