

School Community Council

11/18/2025

- 1. Reintroductions - In Attendance:** Jacinto Peterson, Bonnie Farley, Nancy Hammond, Randall White, Becky Lopez, Mandy Erickson, Racheal DeVaughn, Raxton Madill (Student)
Excused: Denise Nippert, Courtney Peterson, Wendy Heaps, Angela Cervantes
- 2. Community Concerns from Council Members -** Raxton asked about the phone policy at Valley, and commented about his anxiety when he doesn't have his phone on him. Raxton's mom, Racheal made a comment about students not having their phones in the event of an emergency. Jacinto said that he needs to look out for the interests of the teachers, but that he will consider the issue and come up with a solution that meets the student's needs while staying within the law.
- 3. Día de los Muertos Celebration and Book Club Expenditures -** Funds from the School Lands Trust are used to help fund the Book Club by providing books to students each quarter for an opportunity to earn recovery credit. Some of the money is also used to help fund Friday Activities. This year is the 4th year that Valley has held a Friday Activity to teach the students about the history and culture of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and the celebrations that surround it. We had at least 70 students here to earn recovery credit, and about 120 people in the building including the District Superintendent and a State Senator. The Superintendent held one of the breakout sessions and talked to the students about the different cultures in our society and in the schools. A team of parents, teachers, staff, and students set up an Ofrenda in the commons area of Valley. This is an altar or offering, typically created for Día de los Muertos, to welcome back the souls of deceased loved ones. It is a personalized space filled with items like photos, favorite foods, marigolds, candles, and sugar skulls, each with a specific meaning for honoring the departed and guiding them on their return. Jacinto said that all the faculty, staff, and parents that helped make it a success did a fantastic job. The Ofrenda set up for this activity at Valley always brings good vibes to the school.
- 4. Graduation/Accreditation -** Graduation this year will be at the RSL Academy in Herriman on June 1, 2026. We have always been very lucky to have good weather and no rain. This venue is the best choice for Valley because it costs about 3x's less than anywhere else, and there are no limits on the number of people that can attend.
The Assistant Principals at Valley, Britnee Eng and Jack Pay, have been working on our accreditation. This involves a lot of data to show how Valley has improved student learning and personnel. We have turned in our Portrait of a Graduate information at the end of October. This data shows marked improvement in Valley ASVAB, ACT, and SLO (student learning objective) scores.
- 5. School Safety Updates -** Jack Pay does a great job of putting together the safety drills for Valley. Today we held a SHELTER drill that went very well. This is a procedure that we use in the event of a hazard caused by weather or other dangers and may include severe weather, wildfires, flooding, hazmat spill or release, earthquake, or tornado. This is hard to practice because our response depends on what the hazard is. We will continue to practice safety drills

throughout the year in both the morning and afternoon sessions so that everyone has a chance to practice.

6. Updates on the Comprehensive School Counseling Program - The counseling department is also gathering data and getting ready for their review. The Informal review is now done, and the Formal review will be next year.

This month Valley held our annual Utah College Application Week (UCAW) event, as well as our College and Career Fair. Both events were very successful in helping our students explore options for them after graduation. There were about 120 seniors that came for the UCAW activity.

The counselors are also leading several Friday Activities to help students explore post-graduation options. This Friday they are going to take a group of students to tour the SLCC Westpointe campus which offers programs in mechanics, welding, electronics, and other industrial workforce training. Upcoming activities include touring UVU, MTEC, and JATC.

Looking Ahead:

November 20th-College and Career Day

November 26th-28th-Thanksgiving Recess

December 1st-4th-Counseling Stakeholder Surveys

December 5th-FREE Friday Activity ASVAB Career Exploration Survey

December 22-January 4th-Winter Break

February 10th - Next SCC Meeting