

School Community Council

11/20/2024

In Attendance: Jacinto Peterson, Nancy Hammond, Becky Lopez, Bonnie Farley, Rachel Kime, Eva Belliston, Wendi Heaps

Excused: Raquel Kumrow, Leo Kumrow, Lisa Fine, Yesenia Mejia, Gabriella Dickey

Review of Last Meeting:

TSSA funds were used to send employees to conferences such as the Alternative Education Conference in Tucson, AZ and the Innovative School Summit in Chicago, IL

Concerns from Community members: None.

We need at least 200 parents to take the Stakeholder Survey for the school. We have had 191 parents do it so far, but they have until Nov. 26th to complete it. The information from this survey is used to improve the student experience, and it gives the school the ability to evolve and pivot when necessary.

Cell Phone and Digital Devices:

A new state law and district policy has been put into effect to discourage the use of cell phones in the classroom. After receiving input from teachers and parents the phone policy for Valley high has been approved by the district. The administration has the ability to give students back their phone at the end of the day if a parent is not available. The policy at Valley high is still being adjusted to reflect our culture of dignity and respect. The teachers have noticed that students are doing better in class since it has been implemented.

Wisdom from Conferences (Climate and Culture):

TSSA funds were used to send teachers and staff to conferences in Tucson and Chicago this year. Nancy and Rachel went to the Innovative School Summit in Chicago and said that the conference was fantastic. Some of the sessions included lessons on how to reengage with the students and improve teaching strategies. Rachel said that she learned a lot about collective leadership and learning to work with her colleagues. They said that student outcomes are often learned from the adult behaviors that they see. They enjoyed learning about what works well at other schools, and seeing if it will work at our school. Valley high is working to create a statement of clarity that will define our climate and culture and who we are as a group.

Safety (Drills and Security):

This month we will be having a SHELTER safety drill. This is a procedure that we would use in the event of a hazard caused by weather or other dangers. Our drill will be on Thursday, Nov 21st at 10:30 AM and 4:00 PM. This is something that is hard to practice because our response largely depends on what the hazard is such as tornadoes, earthquakes, hazardous materials situations, or other local threats outside of the school. Sheltering requires that all students and staff follow response directives which are explained to the teachers and staff in advance. This practice and explanation for students helps the drill to run smoothly.

Comprehensive School Counseling Program – Bonnie Farley:

The counselors have been meeting with all students for their PCCR appointments for next quarter to help them make sure that they are on track for graduation and help them with post high school opportunities. This month Valley has 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. Eva pointed out that Zion's Bank and Edwards Life Sciences have shown interest in our students. We need to explore what we can do to enhance the abilities of our students to make them more marketable for the future.

The Dia de Los Muertos activity at the first of November was very successful, and has become so popular with the students and staff that next year we want to explore the possibility of turning it into a cultural fair. This way we can celebrate all the different cultures that come together to make us who we are.

Upcoming School Events:

Thanksgiving Break: (November 27th - Dec. 1st)

Friday Activity: St. Vincent de Paul Service Project (December 6th) Free Activity

Free Friday Activity: ASVAP-CEP (December 13th)

Winter Break: (December 20th - January 6th)

Next SCC Meeting: (February 4th)