

# School Community Council—Hillcrest High School

**December 18, 2019**

## **In Attendance:**

1. Greg Leavitt
2. Brant Thomsen
3. Julie Cluff
4. Suzanne Riches
5. Mont Millerberg
6. Rick Graham
7. Nikki Huff
8. Karen Conder
9. Jan Hansen
10. Denise White
11. Stacey Timmerman
12. Jason Dong
13. Quinn Linde
14. John R. Olsen
15. Brett Taylor
16. Jeremy Wright

## **Meeting Notes:**

- Brant Thomsen opened the meeting.
- BLT-CSIP
  - Mr. Leavitt distributed the School Improvement Plan to SCC members.
  - Our big goal is to increase graduation rates to 88%. The grad rate now is at 85%.
  - We are now using the ASPIRE test which is produced by the same company that creates ACT. We will begin tracking scores on ASPIRE tests as well as the ACT.
  - Currently Hillcrest meets state-wide ACT scores. We are hoping to bring the ACT level to the district average.
    - We will do this by increasing the number of students in IB courses, Concurrent Enrollment courses, and AP courses.
    - We do know that if students reach a pass on the ASPIRE test, they are doing well in school. This is a good target measure to achieve.
    - A question was asked about how many opt out of the ASPIRE test. Mr. Leavitt responded that we only had about 20 opt out last time it was given.
  - We will be pushing for assessments to be done by teachers every six to seven days.
  - We are also working toward a school-wide disclosure statement that will require weighted grades. It will also discuss dress code and other school policies.
- Update on Phone Policy

- Mr. Leavitt said he has received only two comments from parents on the new phone policy (see notes from last meeting). One parent was in favor and one was concerned about emergencies.
- Mr. Leavitt emphasized that the students can use their phones, but not during academic learning time.
- The phone policy is not punitive, but does offer teachers an option in extreme cases.
- Brant called for a motion to approve the phone policy. The motion was seconded and passed.
- Gas Leak on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Hillcrest.
  - SCC members expressed concerns and Mr. Leavitt responded.
  - Brant received two phone calls about conflicting pick-up locations.
  - Karen received two District calls, but only one could be heard.
  - Mr. Leavitt stated that this was the most serious emergency he has seen in thirty years.
  - The building was evacuated in three and one-half minutes.
  - All power was turned off. Administration was lucky to discover the problem very early.
  - There was confusion, since everything happened so quickly.
  - The District did a good job of getting buses in rapidly to keep students warm and eventually transport students to the LDS church building on 75<sup>th</sup> South.
    - Mr. Leavitt thanked the LDS Crescent Stake for opening the building and being very helpful.
  - RJ noted that teachers need to be better trained in this kind of emergency. Those in the A Hall didn't evacuate soon enough. They initially moved students to the cafeteria.
    - SCC members noted that teachers need to be given better training for these kinds of emergencies.
    - Could more authority given to encourage teachers to evacuate immediately if they see the need?
  - Jeremy asked if Hillcrest has clear and set evacuation points.
    - Mr. Leavitt noted that the fire department took over after the initial evacuation, pushing students north to Fort Union.
    - There was confusion, but we did manage to get all students to the Hopper's parking area. We do need to work on wheel chairs and disabled student evacuation, though all were taken care of by caring staff and faculty.
  - Jeremy also noted that the Skyward notification was delayed. Nothing was communicated by the district for too long.
    - Mr. Leavitt responded that though things were chaotic, the safety of the students was the first concern, and this was taken care of.
  - Julie said that she received a cell phone message from her daughter's teacher that all of the class was safe. She appreciated this.
    - She suggested that we do need to control general social media posts, since they are often not accurate.
  - Mr. Leavitt said that he thought the students did a good job with this emergency.
    - Mr. Linde added that the students were respectful and followed instructions.

- Construction and Parking Update
  - March 15<sup>th</sup> is now the date for completion of the gymnasium.
  - Ball courts are currently being put down and score boards installed. The building is being painted as well.
  - Seniors should get a little time in the new facility.
  - The building will have new bleachers.
  - Mr. Leavitt noted that PE now has three locations to work with. The fieldhouse will offer a large and small gym, plus turf for football to run short plays during the winter. Banquets areas are also available.
  - Classrooms will be moved to the STEM building, and there will be four extra classrooms in the new facility.
  - Mr. Millerberg noted that the Alta facility is now complete and is very impressive. It is the most widely used facility in the school. This is cheap space that becomes very useful to a school.
  - Mr. Leavitt noted that parking is going well when parents and students obey the rules.
  - The entire school should be open in the summer of 2021. New entrances to Hillcrest will become available when the gymnasium is opened.
- Other Items
  - Brant introduced the vaping issue and Hillcrest students. Schools are reacting to vaping and working to curb the habit through fines. Students receive tickets of \$25.00 for smoking incidents, and \$50.00 fines for drug and alcohol abuses.
  - Julie asked if the school is investing in vaping detection in restrooms. Mr. Leavitt noted that the school has decided against the sensors at this time. They are very expensive.
  - December Fundraiser at Hillcrest
    - This fundraiser has been more successful than any we have had in the past.
    - Mr. Leavitt said that there have been complaints from a few parents about the amount of class time lost for this activity. This will be considered.
    - Mr. Millerberg and Mr. Linde praised the students for creating such a successful event. Hard work went into the effort. About \$30,000 was raised for the cancer research.
  - New building construction
    - Mr. Millerberg commented on the new buildings going up within the district. The district remains committed to rebuilding Peruvian Park, Union Middle and White City, though funding will be difficult.
    - Mr. Leavitt praised the Canyons Board of Education on their building efforts. He noted that 63% of the building bond is going into the Hillcrest feeder system where it is badly needed. The board is continuing to talk to Midvale City to build a new recreational center which can be used by local high schools, including a swimming pool.
- Brant moved to close the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

