

Seward Schools Site-Based Council
Meeting Minutes | January 10, 2013 | 6:30 PM
Seward High School, Seward Middle School, Seward Elementary



Present: Mica Van Buskirk, Julie Lindquist, Leigh Ray, David Kingsland, Trevan Walker, Jason Bickling, Reuben Miranda, Hayden Beard, Myla Liljemark, Linda Ferkinhoff, Jerry Olive, Bob Barnwell, Sami King, Dan Marshall, Amy Hankins, Mark Fraad, Alan Nickell, Tammy Nickell, Dakota Nickell, Suzie Mack, Dr. Michelle Hensel, Terry McKnight, Robin McKnight, Ben Miranda, Zach Martin, Dave Butts, Kelley Cinereske, Caleb Cinereske, and others.

Welcome: Welcome to everyone present!

Minutes: Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Additions to the Agenda: It was moved and seconded to move the discussion about high school football to the top of the agenda.

Public comment: none

Middle School Student Report: none

High School Student Report:

Given by Hayden Beard

- The first week back after the holidays is busy with sports and cheerleading. Basketball is at Sitka January 11 & 12.
- The Debate Team and the Ski Team are active and “doing well.”
- I need details about the trip to Juneau. Who would know? Kara Knotek, who is going for the legislative session, needs the information.
- As the student representative, I’ve been going to the School Board meetings, including budget meetings.
- The school’s winter formal and prom are both in the planning stage.

Old Business:

High School Football (Trevan Walker)

- There are two things that I need:
 - A firm commitment from players and their parents to stick with the team from day one to the end of the season.
 - Seward needs a local referees association with 5-6 referees so that we can rely on local people to host local games. An association needs to be created to manage accounting, scheduling, training, and so on. Sami King added that an association can make sure there are good officials, whose job it is to keep our kids safe on the playing field (i.e., game

safety, crowd control, bench control). There are already people interested training refs and people interested in becoming refs.

- What I'd like from site council is to help me make a decision. These are the considerations:
 - Keep us in the schedule for now, with a wait-and-see status. [Sami King noted that a wait-and-see status affects every single football team in the Greatland Conference.]
 - At this point, there are 33 students who say they are committed to football and camp next year, and 12 maybes.
 - At the coaches meeting, coaches said that they want Seward to be in the schedule and to do all we can to make it happen.
 - Hayden Beard expressed concerns about using local referees and the possibility of favoritism, and also about the reality of having players sign a contract, which is not enforceable legally. Trevan Walker replied that we need to trust the professionalism of the referees we hire.
 - Suzie Mack said that the City Parks & Recreation Department is also having trouble getting referees. Perhaps the schools should consider working in partnership with city to train referees.
 - The question is, will the Central Peninsula Referees Association “get fixed and have the numbers?” Trevan said he believes the association will repair itself but is not confident that Seward would be a priority in terms of sending referees here.
 - Tell Region 3 to pull the plug on SHS football because we can't field a full team. In that case, we store the gear and walk away.
 - Another option would be to have a club team that could at least keep a program going for now.
 - Football players at the meeting took turns expressing their position, which is that they want a team next year. They had a positive attitude about the team, saying “we're on the rise” and “the only place we have to go is up.”
- After all the comments, the site council committed to a team next year. Julie Lindquist pointed out that site council's capacity is advisory only. The final decision is up to Trevan Walker and Sami King.

Middle School Enrollment (Jason Bickling)

- The issues were described at last month's meeting, detailing the enrollment issues and possible outcomes faced by the middle school.
- Everyone present at the meeting received a copy of two graphs.
 - Graph #1 forecasted the enrollment numbers from now to 2020 and the equivalent number of full-time certified teachers that would be granted to the middle school based on those projected numbers and the District's *current* formula (which is likely to be tightened soon). It compared how that would look with just a 7th and 8th grade, and also with a 6th-8th grade. Teaching positions stabilized year-to-year when a 6th grade joined the middle school, but without the 6th grade, teaching positions would be reduced.
- Graph #2 showed the current middle school master schedule. Jason used this graph to illustrate how losing a position at the middle school would result in the loss of 1 section in the schedule. If that

happened, specials would be lost and other classes would need to be combined (multi-subject), which would require teachers to become highly qualified in areas outside of their expertise. Another option would be to combine grades (multi-age).

- One of the “big points” of this is that when teaching positions are lost, the school has less and less to offer its students. Consistency would occur when staffing became stable.
- David Kingsland stated that the effect on the elementary school (of moving the 6th grade to the middle school) would be the loss of specials (like music or library), reduced P.E. school-wide, and the P.E. teacher, Mark Fraad, teaching some library classes.
- The high school lends a .2 FTE to the middle school, but that will not be the case next year. That position will return to the high school.
- Mark Fraad refocused the discussion to the need for more brainstorming. There are other alternatives that should be investigated so that we’re not just shifting the problems around.
- The discussion ended when everyone agreed that the next step should be a community stakeholders meeting. The date, time and location were set as follows: February 12, 2013, 7 PM, Middle School.

New Business:

School Safety (David Kingsland)

- The Superintendent charged principals with talking about school safety. We are to talk with teachers and site councils to gather comments and suggestions about school safety and security.
- Trevan Walker spoke of the three emergencies: fire (evacuation); duck/cover or lockdown; and pandemic flu. He said principals have contingency plans, run school drills for practice, and assign specific tasks for teachers to perform depending on the drill.
- Many questions need to be addressed. What are community perceptions about this? What do you see, hear, and feel after listening to students and parents? What do you observe that you need to tell us? What is it we don't know?
- Situations are not prevented, but mitigated, and practicing our responses through drills is the plan.
- Mica Van Buskirk asked, “What are the steps to mitigate if bad guy is in the building?” David responded that when a threat is recognized, we announce “go into lockdown.” There are very specific steps followed by all staff when that announcement is made.
- Following is a list of suggestions brought up at this meeting:
 - All classrooms should be equipped with a window breaker for egress from the classroom in an emergency (see the Life Breaker website at <http://bit.ly/10I2BSI>). The high school windows do not open.
 - Teachers should be able to lock classrooms from the inside (with a key). David Kingsland pointed out that fire code prohibits putting deadbolts on the inside of classrooms.
 - Classroom doors should have hinges on the inside.
 - Perhaps every school should have a police officer assigned to it.
 - The elementary school should be vigilant about who is coming in the building, whereas the high school’s focus might be more on threats from within the building (i.e., a student).
 - Substitute teachers have no way to lock classroom doors because they aren’t given keys. This is a problem.

- Can non-weapon items be placed in the classroom, such as baseball bats, that could be used as a weapon? Could teachers have bear spray to use on an intruder? Pepper spray? Tazers?
- Office Alan Nickell said that in a meeting with students today, they decided that they did not want to be in a classroom with an armed teacher. Nickell encouraged everyone to focus on prevention through environmental design. He said, “We’re never going to be able to completely stop this. I don’t think arming our teachers is ever going to be the answer.”
- Visitors, teachers, and staff should be required to wear badges at all times.

SBC Local Name Change – tabled.

Seward Schoolyard Habitats Project – the update was canceled at this time. See its blog for information at <http://sewardschoolyardhabitats.blogspot.com/>.

Reports from Administrators, School Board Representative, PTSA Representative

Elementary Report

Given by David Kingsland

- Morning Family Reading time had over 90 folks show up (Muffins for Moms – Donuts for Dad)
- District allocated a Title 1 position to Seward El. for the remainder of the year. We are in the process of hiring.
- 5th grade classes testing with Ed. Performance, which is replacing the Terra Nova test.
- Cross Country Skiing intramural starts next week.
- Geography Bee will be held in our gym on Jan. 18th at 9:30

Middle School Report

Given by Jason Bickling

- We had a few new students come in after the break, which puts our enrollment at 89.
- Ed. Performance testing next week – this is taking the place of Terra Nova testing that we normally do.
- We will be performing a lockdown drill later this month – date TBD.
- Athletics:
 - Wrestling started – Chad Hinders coaching
 - Volleyball – intramurals has started, and Mrs. Hammer is filling in until a coach can be hired.
 - Nordic Skiing – no team this year

High School Report

Given by Trevan Walker

- I’m pleased to announce that Erin Lemmas has taken over the Basketball Cheerleading program. She and the girls have already demonstrated significant ownership by conducting regular practices over the winter break. At last count, there are 18 girls in the program and there’ll be two squads—a JV and Varsity.
- Sol D’Amico has taken on the role of Boy’s C-Team Basketball Coach—they won their home opener against Kenai Central.
- Dan Krier is back from his retirement to assist Mark Clemens with the Girls’ Basketball program.
- Big dates coming up:
 - January 18 - Avalanche Safety Training. There will be a school presentation for those students who pre-arranged. There will be an evening training at 7:00. Pre-registration is recommended for the community presentation (See Seward City News).

- February 7, 8, 9 - Seward High School will be hosting both the Seahawk Classic Basketball Tournament and the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. Best estimates put our student guests at about 200, not including coaching staffs and fans from visiting schools.
- February 8 - Winter Formal. The location is still TBA. The time will be from the last game/NOSB event until 11:00. Students from other schools are invited as long as they have an adult chaperone.

School Board Report – *none*

PTSA Report – *none*

Round Table: none

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting will be on February 14, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., in the Seward Elementary School library.