



**American Fork High School  
School Community Council  
Minutes**

**Monday, January 10, 2011**

**3:00 p.m. in Room 32**

**Members Present**

Carolyn H. Merrill (Principal)  
Holly Clayton (AFHS Counselor)  
Janice Comer-Miller (AFHS Certified)  
Gina Nicholes (AFHS Classified)  
Lesa Whitehead (Teacher)

Jennifer Barton (Greenwood)  
Debbi John (Forbes)  
Dawna Major (Barratt)  
Carrie Perucca (At Large)  
Ron Ulloa (Legacy)  
Jennifer Vawdrey (Shelley)

**Meeting began at 3:00** with welcome by Chair Debbi John.

**Motion** by Jennifer Vawdrey to approve the minutes from November 8, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Lesa Whitehead and passed unanimously.

Chair Debbie John asked if SCC members were able to attend **department collaborations**. SCC members in attendance said they had attended and said they were excellent meetings. Handed out a new time schedule for collaboration in February. Because of school being in session on February 7, schedules were set for teachers to attend during their prep hours.

Chair John moved to fifth item on agenda to finish discussion about **collaboration rubric**. She turned the time over to Principal Merrill to explain. Principal directed members to parent assessment sheet first. Principal explained members will look at bullet points and then do overall points for each area. Teachers will present for 10-12 minutes, members can ask teachers questions and then SCC members talk, after teachers leave, to come up with scores. Principal said this is about \$300 for each teacher. Scores come from 40% teachers, 40% for principal and 20% for SCC.

Chair John asked for commitment of all members to be here on Monday, February 7, at least for their area and then to stay for other areas as their schedules permit. All SCC members meet here in room 32 and teachers will come in during their time slots.

Chair John moved back to item three on agenda, **financial accounting for Trust Lands**. Principal Merrill directed members attention to two handouts. Total allocated to our school is \$70,184 with \$16,844 immediately going out in benefits. Teachers that receive 1/8 are on the spread sheet. This is the month to month accounting members asked for. We had a carry over from last year, it was under \$1500. Homework center originally funded from \$1500 and Principal proposing to SCC to fund a second semester homework center for math as well. Principal said there is after school help Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for math and science for all students. She is funding science out of other area.

Principal said when she gets accounting from District, we don't always use all of the \$16,000 for benefits. If some money comes back to our school she would like confirmation from SCC, that in our Trust Land Plan, we had listed some **additional areas we could use money** for. Principal directed members to turn two pages into Trust Land report and go to item 3 on measuring progress towards goals. Possible uses of extra money are: add extra periods if needed, after school homework center, remediation classes second semester for students not succeeding in math, science or English. Principal said if any money left over, we could slid it to one of these three areas. She also wanted to know if members are alright with going back to previous years' plans of giving some to trackers. She needs to know how they would like

to use the money or if not going to use it, leave left over in account. She thinks it's a good idea, with the environment we are in, to not have any money left over.

Assistant Principal, Jeff Schoonover, said trackers were cut so each tracker is now working with about 80 students, with Denece Jones as head tracker. Principal said she doesn't see having a lot of money left. Discussion and questions from members. Principal said she would address this closer to end of year when she knows the amount of money. She just wanted to get approval from SCC if she can look at these areas to use money. Decision made to use extra money and not have any remaining in account.

Mr. Ulloa asked how we get money from Trust Lands. Money is based on enrollment of school and how much money they have to allocate.

Jennifer Vawdrey referred to new mission statement handout and said as a parent she is looking at preparing students for colleges with **scholarships** etc. She said Pleasant Grove has hired a full time person to just look at scholarships for students and they are seeing success. Ms. Vawdrey said she would be willing to help in whatever way she could to get it up and going.

Holly Clayton said they are always looking for ways to find scholarships. She has an intern working on it and she agreed it's a full time job. She said it would be great to have someone do that. Ms. Clayton said they don't have the man hours as counselors to find scholarships. They are planning for financial aid night to help parents know how to fill out papers.

Mr. Ulloa asked if we can track across schools and **compare** what they are awarded in **scholarships**. Principal Merrill said she has that information showing how AFHS compares to other schools. Mr. Ulloa said it would be good to compare schools to see if a school with full time person working on scholarships makes a difference.

Chair John thanked Ms. Vawdrey for volunteering to help counselors with scholarships.

Chair John asked if SCC members had any questions or comments. Jennifer Barton asked if any student can attend homework session. Yes, it's for all students. Principal said it's a good idea for school to communicate to parents what is available.

Chair John said **web page** not always working. Janice Comer-Miller said Firefox works better than Internet Explorer but patrons wouldn't know that. She said they are going to update page tomorrow. She asked members to try web page in a week and make list of anything not working or problems.

Mr. Ulloa asked about lunch lines. He's heard some kids can't get lunch before time to go to class.

Principal Merrill said there are three things she wanted to address and that was one of them. She talked about hallway problem with new section. Teachers in new section are letting students out early so they are out of new building before next period of students try to enter. Principal said she is asking P.E. teachers to allow students to go to lunch once they are dressed and when this works she might move to fine arts area. They have also adjusted lines and where food is located to help lines move. This has just happened in the last week so they are watching to see what works.

Mr. Ulloa said next item is **school calendar**. Why do we have a two week break for Christmas and come back to school after Memorial Day. Spring break is a whole week. Also have term end before Christmas instead of having two weeks after coming back from break. Mr. Ulloa said there is a large amount of parents that would like to have comments on the calendar. Principal said he should start at District level to give feedback from parents. John Burton is our new school board member. There is a committee at District level that sets calendar.

Chair John said she will bring calendar issue up at Cluster meeting. Discussion on calendar schedule by members.

Principal Merrill referred members to **stakeholders report**. Front page, spent two years refining this to "AFHS committed to preparing students for college, career, and community." Goals are the four questions from District. DRSLs are the four items AFHS is trying to accomplish. Focus comes from District areas of focus.

Turn page over and look at ACT/Plan. ACT Composite score and AFHS composite score. Big jump in 2008 and that's when we focused on writing and wonder if that's why it improved so much. Principal explained with all juniors taking the ACT test this year, our average will drop. The next page shows absences and tardies. Principal is going to ask data specialist to see if he can break down A students how many absences and tardies, B students how many etc.

Next page is students' advisory time of six minutes. It shows first term grades from last year and this year and it shows an improvement. Principal explained teachers turn in logs to her. This is something making positive impact on school and we will continue to show SCC data on it.

Mr. Ulloa asked with all juniors taking ACT and our average going down, would that affect us. Principal said no, because we have backing from District. Suggestion to get score from all juniors taking test and then score from juniors who take it more than once. Ms. Clayton suggested juniors take the free test, then again in June or fall of senior year. Ms. Clayton told members that on certain dates, students can pay an additional \$18 and ACT will mail booklet to show questions and what they missed. This is only on certain test dates in December, April, and June. She said she has given this information to English teachers to tell students.

Principal Merrill wanted to spotlight meeting she attended earlier today. **WestEd** research said Utah currently has 117 different languages. Demographics are changing in Utah and this will be permanent. Principal said she could mail this information out to SCC or go over it in next month's meeting. Principal said education in Utah is funded so low and if we don't do something it will get really hard. She said it would be good to get **feedback from SCC**. Do parents realize how badly we are really underfunded?

Ms. Clayton said when she was an English teacher, she attended meetings with English teachers from across the country. English teachers from other states were horrified that we had 30+ students; other states have 20 or less. We have a crisis here in Utah. Principal asked **SCC members to contact their Legislators and let them know how important money for education is.**

Mr. Schoonover said student council is pushing for more date dances and he wanted feeling of parents on SCC. He said school currently has five date dances. Parents said these dates are very expensive and discussion and ideas followed. Principal said they could put Sadies on a Friday night and that way they couldn't do an all day date. Parents really liked that idea. Mr. Schoonover said students came up with that idea but students said they would do day date on Saturday. Parents felt five were enough and Mr. Schoonover said that was his feelings but wanted to know how parents felt.

Monday, February 7, will be collaboration meetings with next SCC meeting on February 14.

Motion by Ron Ulloa to adjourn and seconded by Jennifer Vawdrey. Meeting adjourned at 4:10.