

Pleasant Grove Student Community Council – April 1, 2014

Welcome by Sara

Graduation scheduling for next year. BYU Marriott Center has a conflict with scheduling. Four schools don't have the Marriott Center now on the last day of school. Normally it is the last day of school. May 29, 2015 will be the last day next year. UVU can do it on Friday for four schools. There are another four schools that could do it on Saturday, or Monday. Or all eight could have graduation on Monday and Tuesday. Saturday is a worry because that night we can not host an all night party. Friday night the school can host that. The after graduation celebration is for a safe place for the kids to go. Monday and Tuesday will be running into Summer Break.

UVU is not big enough, it was a bad experience for us three years ago. They would change the seating so it is sideways so there should be enough seating this time. We can't have it at the High School, there isn't enough room. They have checked everywhere and UVU is the only venue that will work.

The over night party starts fizzling about 2 am. The idea of having it on Friday and Saturday seems the best option. No one wants to bump it to Monday or Tuesday. The kids will adjust to having the party be the night before if graduation is on Saturday, or maybe holding it in the evening. A lot of families might take off so Monday or Tuesday would not work very well. More extended family can attend on the weekend. If the graduation is in the morning on Saturday, they could maybe have the party from noon until midnight. UVU is scheduled earlier in the week for Nebo school district and others.

Seating for 10,000 people is needed. BYU is not available. Do we want to try to have graduation in our football stadium? The students could have seats set up on the field and the audience could sit in the pews. If it rains we could go to the UVU venue. Graduation is the most important activity of the year.

Trust Lands Funds Budget and Proposal. It is traditional to what we have done before. The graduation rate is our focus to make sure the kids are graduating. 93% is our goal. 91.2% is the highest we have gone, and that was last year. Some years are really hard because of strong influence among peers to not go to class. This year 14 kids have dropped out who are Senior's. Life Skills Kids are considered drop outs. Because of that we can't get a perfect graduation rate. Anything above 90% is a celebration.

We are continuing to hire advocates. We are working with the students who have a hard time getting their work done. It is a great service for the kids who don't have support at home. Alpine Eastshore Electronic center 203 of our kids are taking online classes. Eastshore is \$110. If you qualify for a fee waver you can take it free. If you finish a course every 30 days the next course is free. Drivers Ed is free. Every course has to finish it before graduation. You can only have a few courses at a time. Electronic High School has you buy some texts. A lot of online classes are being dropped because of funding. We want to continue to pay for the aid running the East Shore. It is open at lunch and after school.

We want to continue to add additional AP classes, AP History, German, Spanish, Math AP Class. We can use this for the newer teachers who are the least expensive. The teachers who have been here longer, their wages are payed by the district. The Proposal is due Friday. Three advocates are working now part time, and we have five. Three do 29 hours a week and two do 10 hours a week. There are no more facilities to house them, one is using a closet for an office. ASL class is very popular and another class has been added (American Sign Language). Four schools get the broadcast, about 600 kids get

the lessons from Ben Lee. One of our classes is over TV, and another class gets it live while he broadcasts it to other schools. He goes to Lehi High every other day. A3 and B5 at PGHS are the class periods he teaches here.

The advocates have a pretty fast turnover because there are no benefits and it is an hourly rate of just over \$10 an hour. A counselor, advocate and administrator work together, so they get trained. It has caused a 12% growth in the graduation rate. The best advocates are good Moms. Some Parents are very supportive and help work with the advocates.

The votes was taken and it was unanimous to pass the proposal for use of funds for next year. No vote for Cindy Hill, Mount Mahogany was absent. \$108,000 is the amount that is being used.

Can anyone vote on the members of the SCC? The board can make bylaws. We need to have a representative from each school zone. Anyone in the school community should be able to vote, but Some people come to vote and are turned away if they don't have a student at the school or coming into the school the next year. If you have a student at the High School you can vote in each of the school zones that feed into the High School. Next meeting we will review the rules for election into the SCC. The second Tuesday, May 13 is when we will vote for the next year's representatives, if necessary. It will be open for three days to vote. Some years we are done elections in the Spring, as we will this year. It has been done before in the Fall.

Next months agenda, updates on the new gym construction. They have started drilling holes for the foundation. The city is moving ahead. Irrigation people have been looking around.