

NUAMES COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Mtg Date: March 10, 2011
Location: NUAMES, Portable N12
Members Present: Alan Stokes, Steve Lore, Dale Olpin, Bill Sholler, Gayle Stucki, Brian Rudes, Deb Hefner, Debbi Smith
Members Excused: Sam Sherman,
SBO's Student: Mirra Vasquez, Briana Lehman, Cedric Abalos
Visitors: Neil Grose

The meeting called to order by Bill Sholler at 5:06 PM.

1. Meeting Minutes Approval:

- a) February 10, 2011. To be approved at April Council Meeting.
- b) Correction - Council Reports, Item 3 – Should be SEOP

2. Chair – Community Council

a) *Review Trust Land Funded Purchases:*

Spent \$220 on two new balances for chemistry. Have \$580 remaining from the original \$800 allocated for balances. Purchased all 6 sets of clickers from trustland funds.

Leaves approximately \$2,000 total remaining in TrustLand funds. Suggested to use remaining to increase manpower for the Math Lab. Currently, have a couple math peer tutors. Math lab is dealing with Algebra 1 students that have not passed Algebra CRT Test. School administrators have taken about 20 students out of current math class and put them in Math Lab, called CRT prep. Need to pass two CRT tests (Geometry & Algebra 1 CRT). Had asked two previous (graduated) students to help with tutoring; one didn't want to do it, the other did not have time. Gayle suggested that let the teachers know that some funds are available and ask them, "what would be most helpful". Brian agreed to ask Math Teachers (get input from all of them) on what would be the most helpful and will report back next month.

Alan Stokes suggested that another possibility would be to have summer program.

Council may want to carry more over, if trust land funding is reduced next year.

- b) *Status of Software Enhancement, Class Rank Option:* Students can opt to have class rank reported or not on their transcript and NUAMES is one of the first schools to offer this. Software enhancement has been completed and instructions have been provided to NUAMES. Holly gets transcript requests all year long. Some schools request class ranking, but most do not. The school does not have an official transcript request form.

It was suggested that admin will ask the students if they want class rank or not when they come in to request transcript . A letter will go out to parents with end of term grades (22nd or 23rd) explaining the new process. Can also put in newsletter and correspondence with parents. Will also cover in the SEOP's and handbook. Might be helpful to verbally explain to the students as well.

Alan Stokes will provide sample of letter to Steve Lore before it goes out. Breanna suggested that NUAMES put an actual formal transcript request on the website. Alan indicated that it would be possible.

- c) *Review Website Issues / Recommended Improvements:* Jeanette Braithwaite is currently webmaster. Alan indicated that major changes were coming and school is considering using a professional web development company. Have meeting scheduled next Wednesday with consulting company to implement a possible redesign.

Gayle suggested that the website should look progressive. Alan indicated that the school had not received a lot of complaints and only a few complaints from Council Members. It was acknowledged that the lack of feedback may be for several reasons: e-mails not being received; people don't care; people are not looking at website; or they don't know how to communicate these issues.

Some suggestions for improvements:

- Provide a downloadable calendar (nice for smart phones).
- Put a feedback link.
- Institute a website development steering group (parent, student, teacher)

Will revisit next month.

- d) *Engaging Students in Activities/ Clubs:*

Neil Gross indicated he was in meeting with other Principals in Weber School District. It was reported that there is general apathy of student involvement in school activities. They are busy doing other things and don't see school as being an after-hours social event, including ball games. It could be as a result of how kids are being connected, demands may have changed and kids don't see school as filling social needs.

Many sophomores do not get involved because they find the school very intimidating with such emphasis on academics (they don't want to get sidetracked). Seems like teachers don't support the clubs or want to read announcements.

How can students become more engaged?

1. Have orientation in May (Sophomores and new Juniors) – great to have various opportunities explained. Setup booths in the hallway.
2. The general assembly for elections can be used to and while counting votes, and explain different clubs. Basic info is shared (tries to interest you).
3. Provide link to clubs website. Provide who to talk to.
4. Get parents involved. If parents are involved, the students might be more involved.
5. Provide access to other competition (English Quest, Math, Robotics)

6. Provide mechanism to start other clubs. Teachers are very involved (some are involved in 2 or 3 clubs), but are already overstretched for time. NUAMES requires faculty advisor to be in charge. It was suggested that increased support and expertise can be found, if an outside person could manage the club with faculty oversight. Extend faculty member with a parent. Need to have background check, etc. When potential teachers are interviewed – they are asked about extra-curricular activities. NUAMES select teachers that are willing to get involved. Other schools asks for commitment from teacher to “tie them into the culture of the school”.
7. Utilize Facebook. Lot of clubs have their own pages and many students have turned to Facebook. That has been really effective.
8. Schedule an afternoon to visit clubs (extra-curricular Fair, 5th hour) at the beginning of the year. Create environment to see and visit. It was proposed to have one (1) assembly, like a vendor fair (face-to-face interaction).
9. Propose a “Club Week”. Have clubs setup in the hall for a week. Students can possibly do for several. Alan Stokes indicated that it would be possible to get this started this year.
10. Consider getting a Junior to get involved to carry across summer and into next Fall.

Breanna will report on this next month.

- e) *Teacher Appreciation Lunch, March 17:* Scheduled on St. Patrick’s Day. Scheduled for 12:35 – after students are dismissed. Setup in Portable N11.

Will do a potato bar. Gayle will coordinate and e-mail. SBO’s are in charge of dessert (figure for about 20)

3. Council Reports

- a) *SCC Treasurer’s report* (Deb Hefner): Provided above.
- b) *Administration update* (Alan Stokes): Lori Drake long term plan to get involved. Internships are part of it. It takes time.
- c) *School Board Update* (Gayle Stucki):

Board took unofficial vote to not change transcript in any way. Won’t split high school and college grades. Admin can print 2 columns (NUAMES and College). No changes for this year. Motion passed to have parents/students to sign waiver next year (disclaimer) to communicate that their grade point will be affected by taking early college classes.

Gayle suggested that we talk to parents on how we can assist. Gayle did unofficial survey with some past graduates. Weber State University accepts all credits; a couple students responded that some University are not accepting NUAMES early College. Some couldn’t get scholarships because their index scores were lower. How can we help other schools understand that we have different program, communicate that students took college courses and help students get credit for their coursework that they have completed? Supposedly, statue passed several years ago that state universities are required to accept credits from others (state universities).

Dale suggested that we as a school need to cultivate relationships with other College (U of U, USU). One action – garnish relationships with University and communicate to them that NUAMES is unique. Students should be encouraged to get on Utah Futures and figure exactly what is required. More important if students go out of state.

The School Board understands this is an issue and plans to address in the future.

4. Around the Room/New Business to address this year

- a) *Address texting.* Address next month. NUAMES is currently working on this.

- b) *Trust Land Budget Plan for Next Year:* Suggested that we create a generic budget. Focus on math & science. Motion to continue to supply science labs that directly apply to all students and should have measureable results.

Also suggested to improve ACT prep (offer more often).

1. Science Labs (1/2 budget) - \$7,000
2. Mathematic Improvement (1/4) - \$3,500
3. ACT Prep (1/4) - \$3,500

Finance meeting scheduled for end of April.

5. Motioned to adjourn: At 6:37 PM.