Shawnee Heights U.S.D. #450
District Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting

January 14, 2019

Those present were:
- Dr. Martin Stessman
- Rebecca Greer
- Rocky Busenitz
- Tamara Edington
- Annie Harris
- Bryce Leidtke
- Jason Genovese
- Kim Saxkiller
- Brenda Holladay
- Jennifer Forshee-Weichert
- Alisha Delgado
- Kristin Fisher
- Jeannie Gish
- Laurie Parks

1. **Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order by Kristin Fisher

2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
Tamara Edington moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Jennifer Forshee-Weichert, motion carried 12-0.

3. **Approve Minutes of November 12, 2018, Meeting**
Tamara Edington moved to approve the Minutes of the November 12, 2018, District Advisory Council Meeting as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Forshee Weichert, motion carried 12-0.

4. **Communications and Announcements**
Laurie Parks, a Tecumseh South parent, coach and former teacher, addressed the DAC regarding the recently adopted 2019-2020 School Calendar. She expressed concern of eliminating the first day of school for just 7th and 9th grade students so they could be acclimated to the buildings and not feel overwhelmed on their first day in a new environment. Some other DAC members also expressed their concern that there was no parental involvement in this decision. Dr. Stessman explained that it costs the district more than $85,000.00 for just that one day for those students and State Auditor no longer allows the district to count that as a contact day. Principals and staff are developing ways to make those 7th and 9th grade students feel more comfortable in their new surroundings and to make the transition as smooth as possible.

5. **Site Council and PTO Reports**
   - **Kim Saxkiller – Shawnee Heights Middle School Site Council**
     Middle School students recently participated in “Reality U” which is a simulation of what it is like to live in the real world. Students participated in activities such as balancing checkbooks, handling everyday expenses as well as unexpected expenses, such as a car repair. They were able to learn about different careers as well. A survey from Communities that Care was distributed to 8th grade students and after reviewing the results, which students remain anonymous, discovered that smoking is almost non-existent and has been replaced with vaping which is easily disguised. Site Council members then decided to develop ways to educate parents about the dangers of vaping. February 8th is enrollment into 9th grade. Parents at the Middle School find that the random drug testing has been very effective.

   - **Annie Harris & Bryce Liedtke – High School STUCO**
     STUCO officers have eliminated the date matching “contest” as a fundraiser. Instead they are partnering with the KEY Club for students to be able to buy a rose for 50 cents and attach a piece of candy to it for an additional 25 cents as a fundraising event. King and Queen of Courts is February 1st.

   - **Brenda Holladay – Berryton Elementary PTO and Site Council**
     The Berryton Site Council did not meet in December. Berryton PTO had a successful Craft Fair and plans are already underway for next December’s Fair. February 8th will be a Taco Feed and Silent Auction. Olivia Bayse, 1st Grade Teacher has been named a Horizon Award Winner for the State of Kansas. Fifth grade student Olivia Salamanca was the winner of the 2019 Martin Luther King Living the Dream Art Contest. There is a pilot program at Berryton where 6th grade students pick electives for their Middle School classes for next year.
5. Site Council and PTO Reports (cont.)
   Tamara Edington – High School Site Council
   No report.

   Alisha Delgado – Shawnee Heights Elementary Site Council
   Jennifer Forshee-Weichert – Shawnee Heights Elementary PTO
   The SHES Site Council discussed KESA and ways to attract more parent involvement when distributing surveys. They are currently participating in many parent-engagement activities including a Health and Wellness Fair held January 5th (with low attendance), there will be a dance in February to involve all family members, an upcoming Talent Show to include a Dinner Theatre, the 2nd Monday of every month will be SHES Night at Senor Burritos on 29th and Croco, a Book Fair during Parent/Teacher conferences, a STEAM night in April with the Children’s Discovery Center and plans for a Spring fundraiser. There is also some pre-planning for a Mom’s Night Out. PTO discussion was held regarding field trips and which were the most important. Dr. Stessman said Board of Education approval is only needed for those trips which are out of state. All other field trips are at the discretion of the buildings. PTO members are reviewing what educational opportunities are in the city so students do not have to travel very far.

   Kristin Fisher – Tecumseh South Elementary PTO
   There will be a “Dancing Through the Decades” Friday, January 18th. Each grade is assigned a decade and can dress for the occasion and students have a section of the gymnasium wall they will decorate regarding that decade. An Elf Store was added to the Santa Event in December. The major purchase for this year was STEAM Lab equipment which was almost $8,000.00. Students can check out the manipulatives at the library just as they would a library book.

   Jason Genovese – Shawnee Heights Education Association
   January 31st will be Chili and Chat with Legislators at Topeka High School. This is sponsored by KNEA and everyone is invited. KNEA is also offering professional development and ongoing education.

6. Rocky Busenitz – Board of Education Report
   The Board of Education approved Capital Outlay projects and purchases at their last meeting. Also, recently approved were field trips and course additions at the High School. There is a new pathway course at the High School where students who have an interest in a teaching career can participate in various activities. This is much like the Ag Program recently started at Shawnee Heights.

7. Dr. Martin Stessman – Superintendent
   Dr. Stessman reviewed the Capital Outlay purchases and projects recently approved by the Board of Education. He highlighted the big ticket items which include reserving $250,000.00 for six new buses, which the district buys every other year, field improvements and the Middle School parking lot. The roofs at SHES and the South Wing of the High School need replaced, some technology items need to be updated or purchases as well. The district has retained the services of Walter P. Moore to evaluate the quality of workmanship in the auditorium masonry. The Board of Education will receive a report in a review of the workmanship on the masonry of the auditorium and discuss how best to proceed. These improvements will be of no cost to the district since we will be working with the bonding company. There is a retirement workshop for employees on Wednesday, January 16. Currently there are 30 employees who are signed up to attend which is a larger number than in the past. Dr. Stessman will be meeting with representatives from Grace Med to discuss providing dental services for students in all 6 attendance centers. Riley Propps, High School Social Studies teacher, was also named a 2019 Horizon Award winner. The Ag Program at the High School has become very popular with high enrollment. The ROTC Program did not meet enrollment requirements so the Ag Program was brought in to replace it. Elementary art is happening and students are excited about the program.
8. **Becky Greer - Curriculum Director**

   Mrs. Greer announced she will be retiring from the District as of August 1st. January 22nd, there will be 33 teachers who will begin the ELA Curriculum review. The standards have not changed but this will still be reviewed. Mrs. Greer distributed an envelope with she asked DAC members to rank in the order they believe is the most effective practice for kids learning ELA. After the exercise, she informed them of the rank according to Hattie’s Work:

   1. Self-Reported Grades/Student Expectations
   2. Classroom Discussion
   3. Feedback
   4. Vocabulary Programs
   5. Comprehension Programs
   6. Direct Instruction
   7. Phonics Instruction
   8. Writing Programs
   9. Homework
   10. Class Size
   11. Retention
   12. Television
   13. Mobility

   Mrs. Greer discussed the K-12 research regarding English Language Arts and how students in PreK-3 are learning to read vs. students who begin the 4th grade now begin reading to learn.

9. **Open Forum (Members – Questions, Comments, Concerns)**

   Alisha Delgado inquired about excessive amounts of screen time for students and long-term effects with their vision. Eye doctors are beginning to ask parents if they are aware of how much screen time their child has when in school. Mrs. Greer has been watching for any news from the American Academy of Pediatrics and so far, they have not distributed any information regarding this. Dr. Stessman also said it depends on the course a student is taking. iPads are not used for all courses, so some students may only have an hour of screen time a day. Mrs. Greer encouraged parents to be cognizant of screen time outside of the school day.

12. **Adjournment**

   Tamara Edington moved the meeting adjourn. Seconded by Alisha Delgado, motion carried 12-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

   *The next meeting for the District Advisory Council will be Monday, February 11, 2019.*