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

October 14, 2019

Those present were:

Dr. Martin Stessman      Bryce Leidtke      Buck Reuter
Stacey Giebler           Michele Harrison    Rebecca Gray
Stacey Bell              Tina Perkins         Kristy Hanshaw
Julie Liedtke            Kim Sixkiller       Angie Smith
Tamara Edington          Brenda Holladay      Kristy Rondash
Mackenzie Waggoner       Ian Robbins         Jeannie Gish
Rocky Busenitz           Rod Spangler

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order Tamara Edington.

2. Adoption of the Agenda
Kim Sixkiller moved to approve the adoption of the agenda with the addition of Shawnee Heights Public Schools Foundation Report. Seconded by Julie Liedtke, motion carried 18-0.

3. Approve Minutes of September 9, 2019 Meeting.
Rebecca Gray moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2019 District Advisory Council meeting as submitted. Seconded by Kim Sixkiller, motion carried 18-0.

4. Communications and Announcements
None.

5. Site Council and PTO Reports
Michele Harrison – Shawnee Heights Education Association
SHEA representatives have been working with the High School design class on a logo for the Shawnee Heights Education Association.

Kristy Hanshaw – Tecumseh North Site Council
The One School One Book initiative Because of Winn-Dixie will be the all school read for the months of November, December and January. The United Way goal for students was $1,400.00 and they exceeded that by almost $200.

Kim Sixkiller – Shawnee Heights Middle School Site Council
The Middle School Site Council discussed ways to transition from 6th grade to 7th grade. The Site Council believes there is a disconnect of expectations regarding students and there is more need for better communication to parents. iPad usage with students and staff was also discussed.

Julie Liedtke – Shawnee Heights High School Booster Club
Bingo will be November 5th. The Booster Club is asking if non-skid trips can be placed on the bleachers. At Homecoming, the bleachers were slick because of the rain. The Booster Club is in need of more parental involvement for Post Prom. Staff and parents would like to see more communication on the High School community level.

Ian Robbins – Shawnee Heights Elementary PTO
SHES Night was at the Landing September 30th. Welcome Back BBQ and movie night was held September 21st. Approximately 700 grandparents attended Grandparents Day September 13th. High 5 Fridays with the High School Football Team was a huge success. SHES PTO is planning an event to honor veterans and first responders. PJ’s and Pancakes with Santa is scheduled for December 7th.
5. **Site Council and PTO Reports (cont.)**

- **Buck Reuter – Shawnee Heights Elementary Site Council**
  The SHES Site Council reviewed bylaws and elected officers. They also discussed ways to have better parent involvement with Parent Info Night.

- **Tina Perkins – Shawnee Heights Middle School PTO**
  The Middle School PTO is looking for concession stand volunteers for Middle School football games.

- **Brenda Holladay – Berryton Elementary Site Council & PTO**
  The Berryton Site Council will be meeting October 15th.
  Berryton’s PTO discussed the Carnival and final number of funds raised. Grandparents Day was held along with a Book Fair which raised $9,000.00.

- **Angie Smith – Tecumseh South Elementary Site Council**
  No report.

- **Christi Rondash – Tecumseh South Elementary PTO**
  Fundraiser sales netted $7,000.00 which is a decrease from last year. Carnival funds raised looks to be similar from last year.

- **Bryce Liedtke & Mackenzie Waggoner – High School STUCO Members**
  Homecoming went well despite the inclement weather. STUCO members will be meeting with administrators and counselors to discuss a staff appreciation event. STUCO is working on “Unsung Heroes” posters which highlight support staff. Mr. Whitney suggested that during spirit week, instead of dressing differently, host a kindness day, no one sits alone day, High 5, etc. STUCO have decided to eliminate Trunk or Treat this year due to planning other activities.

- **Rebecca Gray – Tecumseh North Elementary PTO**
  The recent Tecumseh North Carnival had to be held inside because of the rain. Donuts with Dad is Friday, October 18th.

- **Tamara Edington – Shawnee Heights High School Site Council**
  The High School Site Council discussed the Kansas Vision for Education and Accreditation. They also discussed the vaping crisis and ways to combat it. DeSoto has vaping monitors, however Rocky Busenitz did mention that Eric Deitcher, Rosa Cavazos and Dr. Stessman attended a Board of Education retreat where there were vendors selling vaping detectors. After much discussion, the Board decided not to pursue this at this time because of cost of not only the detectors, but also installation and concerns about the overall effectiveness.

  Mrs. Edington also mentioned appreciation of the principal, activities director and other teams in attendance at the recent City League Cross Country Meet.

6. **Shawnee Heights Public Schools Foundation – Rod Spangler**

Rod Spangler, Vice-President of the Shawnee Heights Public Schools Foundation updated District Advisory Council members of the events the Foundation has sponsored both past and present. The Annual Foundation Breakfast was held that morning with 180 guests in attendance. The Foundation hosted a Golf Tournament earlier this year with $12,000.00 raised from that event and there will be a Winter Mixer in January for all staff to attend at Bettis Sports Park Complex where prizes are given away and the Foundation Board Members are able to visit with all staff, not just teachers. He noted that all funds raised go back to the classroom.
7. Rocky Busenitz – Board of Education Report
At their last Board of Education meetings, the Board accepted donations from three businesses who donated the funds to Reality U. They approved an agreement with the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library to enroll all students with library cards where their participation level will be tracked and reported back to administration. The Board approved the development of a Student Advisory Council where students from the High School and Middle School will meet with Dr. Stessman and principals to discuss concerns and issues. This Council will be much like the District Advisory Council or the Superintendent’s Council. The Board of Education heard the latest Communities that Care Survey with much concern.

8. Dr. Martin Stessman - Superintendent
Dr. Stessman shared a video with DAC members which he had staff watch at the beginning of the year. Administrators have had some great conversations with principals and teachers regarding the skills students will need in the next decade as problem solvers and critical thinkers. The United States is #1 in the world in Nobel Prize winners and Patent winners. District administrators have challenged principals and teachers to educate in ways that develop problem solving and critical thinking. Some parents reported seeing a shift toward trade jobs that are not common – welding, mechanics, etc. The National Guard is seeing a shift in the younger generation. Parents also believe students need to be taught empathy skills as they have forgotten how to be with one another with all the technology which is around them.

9. Stacey Bell – Secondary Curriculum Director
Mrs. Bell updated DAC members on the KSDE sponsored ACT tests for 11th graders. She also reviewed Xello which is a career interest survey for 7th through 12th grade students that helps students decide what their careers will be. Shawnee Heights has Career Pathways where students can intern with their level of interest before going to college to study their field of choice more in depth.

10. Stacey Giebler – Elementary Curriculum Director
Mrs. Giebler discussed the ELA revision process. Next, they will review Social Studies with Science to follow next year. She explained the Curriculum Review process and showed DAC members how it’s accomplished. There is a notice going out to teachers to ask for volunteers to serve on curriculum review committees. Teachers from each grade level will be represented. The curriculum review cycle takes 6-7 years to complete unless there is a reason to postpone or re-evaluate the certain curriculum beforehand because of State Board of Education standards. Shawnee Heights empowers teachers to teach and provides them access to resources so they can decide what fits their students. New teachers in the profession are provided with extra support and guidance as well.

11. Open Forum (Member – Questions, Comments, Concerns)
Mrs. Edington expressed her concern regarding a sign in the High School by the lunchroom regarding unpaid balances and how students will be fed. She believes the wording needs to be different. Dr. Stessman will review the sign to see if there can be a different choice of words to be used.

STUCO will be sponsoring snack packs from the Care Closet for students.

12. Adjournment
Rebecca Gray moved the meeting adjourn. Seconded by Kim Sixkiller, motion carried 18-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

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