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

September 10, 2018

Those present were:
Dr. Martin Stessman    Brenda Holladay    Leslie Florence
Rebecca Greer          Jennifer Forshee-Weichert  Kristin Fisher
Tamara Edington        Rebecca Gray            Jeannie Gish
Kim Sixkiller          Kristy Hanshaw

1. Call to Order – Dr. Stessman, Facilitator
The meeting was called to order by Dr. Stessman.

2. Introduction of Members
Each District Advisory Council that was present, introduced themselves and who they represented.

3. Adoption of the Agenda
Tamara Edington moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Jennifer Forshee-Weichert, motion carried 8-0.

4. Review of By-Laws and Purpose of the District Advisory Council
Dr. Stessman reviewed the by-laws as well as the purpose of the District Advisory Council to all members present.

5. Communications and Announcements
None.

6. Election of Officers
Rebecca Gray move to appoint Kristin Fisher as Chairperson for the 2018-2019 District Advisory Council. Seconded by Tamara Edington, motion carried 8-0.

   Jennifer Forshee-Weichert offered to accept the position of Coordinator for the 2018-2019 District Advisory Council. Seconded by Kristin Fisher, motion carried 8-0.

7. Site Council and PTO Reports
Brenda Holladay – Berryton Elementary PTO and Site Council
The Berryton Elementary PTO will be meeting Tuesday, September 11th.

The Berryton Site Council discussed the new Berryton Facebook page, the Shawnee Heights’ app, and Grandparents Day. WIBW was in the building September 7th to feature a set of triplets in the Kindergarten class. Teachers discussed Camp Invention held during the summer. The program resonated with teachers and they would like to use the concepts of Camp Invention more than just in the summer. Site Council members also discussed the foundation of Berryton and what the school stands for.

Leslie Florence – Tecumseh South Elementary Site Council
New staff to Tecumseh South are three teachers, 1 para educator and a social worker. Site Council members discussed student goals, new math strategies, and the addition of another 1st grade class which also meant some students had to share lockers and the restructuring of those lockers so students could have lockers to themselves. The Site Council also discussed the Title I update and how to help with family engagement strategies.

Kristin Fisher – Tecumseh South PTO
The Fall Fundraiser for Tecumseh South has been completed, but there are no final numbers yet. PTO members discussed the “Steam” Lab (science, technology, engineering, art and math). October 13 will be the Tecumseh South PTO Carnival. Fifty percent of the PTO Board has turned over, so there are many new members.
7. **Site Council and PTO Reports (cont.)**

   *Jennifer Forshee-Weichert – Shawnee Heights Elementary PTO*

   The SHES PTO met September 4th and discussed more family engagement and less fundraising. They explored the concept of family volunteering, not just parents. The president of the SHES PTO is working on a $5,000 grant from Lowe’s where they will use the money to redo the picnic tables, add mulch to the playground and new signs in the foyer regarding prominent figures at SHES. The Carnival is Saturday, September 15th. SHES will be hosting a Social Media Information Night on September 24th in the High School Auditorium. All district parents, patrons and students, are welcome and invited to attend.

   *Kristy Hanshaw – Tecumseh North Elementary Site Council*

   The Site Council met Thursday, September 6th, and discussed the bylaws and district goals. They also reviewed the summer activities in the building which included the library being open two days a month, being a site for summer feeding and the teachers who tutored. There is a new playground slide and additional mulch has also been added. Also discussed was the Pre-School program, and the 4th, 5th & 6th grades splitting PE and music.

   *Tamara Edington – High School Site Council*

   No report – the High School Site Council has not yet met.

   *Rebecca Gray – Tecumseh North Elementary PTO*

   The Tecumseh North PTO met on Thursday, September 6th. Items of discussion included a photography fundraiser. This fundraiser was new last year. Families can schedule 15 minute sessions with a photographer for a fee and the entire proceeds go to the Tecumseh North PTO. The Tecumseh North Carnival will be October 6th. The Grandparents Breakfast was September 7th. There is a possible Chiefs Fundraiser where tickets will be sold for $33.50 and one of three games could be chosen. Ten dollars of that money would go to the Tecumseh North PTO.

   *Kim Sixkiller – Shawnee Heights Middle School Site Council*

   Mo report – the Middle School Site Council has not yet met.

8. **Board of Education Report**

   In the absence of Rocky Busenitz, Board Vice-President, Dr. Stessman reviewed the Board Meetings from August 20th and September 4th. The Drug Testing Funding which was on the September 4th Board meeting has been tabled until the February 18, 2019, Board Meeting for more discussion of how to fund it. Some of the funding for the current year will be from parking fees, Pepsi money, activities or ad revenue.

   The Board of Education approve an Agreement with the Family Service and Guidance Center where a therapist will be located at the High School one day a week for students to receive services. This is more convenient for families who’s have students that use this service as there is no time taken away from the day for parents to transport their student to that office. Precautions will be taken to keep student identities confidential and to respect HIPPA regulations.

   Since the completion of the performance auditorium, there has been a leak. The Board of Education took the retainage of this and hired an investigator to locate and fix the problem. The leak has now been repaired and more testing may be required.

9. **Dr. Martin Stessman – Superintendent**

   Dr. Stessman distributed and reviewed the 2018-2019 Board Goals which were approved at the September 4th Board of Education Meeting. One of the topics discussed at length was Item #3 – *All learning environments will be safe, will be secure, and will promote a culture of inclusion and acceptance.* DAC members discussed the issue of safety in the buildings. This topic will be brought back to a future DAC meeting.
9. **Dr. Martin Stessman – Superintendent (cont.)**

Dr. Stessman informed the DAC for the first time ever USD 450 started the year with teacher vacancies. Shawnee Heights was unable to secure a High School Math and a High School Special Education teacher. Since the new funding is now in place, administrators expect a turnaround in the teaching profession and education is starting to come back from 2008.

Elementary Art is on course for the second semester.

10. **Becky Greer - Curriculum Director**

Mrs. Greer discussed the slight change in the Math Standards and a few adjustments in the manipulatives. Curriculum review is on a seven-year cycle for each subject. The district discovered it needed to be more rigorous in a few concepts. Teachers teach the standards first, then give the guidance to create a flow. Higher level math students now have access to calculators.

The State of Kansas, through the Legislature, now allows students to take the ACT Test for free. Any junior student and even seniors who have not taken the test, do not have to worry about the cost. Those who do not take the ACT can receive a reading and math certificate because not all students go to a 4-year and beyond college. Some go to a community college or Vo-Tech. The ACT is still filled out by paper and cannot be administered digitally.

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

Jennifer Forshee-Weichert asked other elementary representatives if there is separate celebrations or functions for 6th grade students at the end of the year. Other school reps reported what they do for the 6th grade classes. Jennifer also told DAC members that this was eliminated from the PTO Budget due to trying to increase more family engagement, but PTO members would like to do more.

Kristy Hanshaw mentioned how nice the flags look on the light poles in the secondary campus parking lot.

Tamara Edington reported for Reenie Olson who is the Booster Club representative that Booster Club discussions including painting the press box at the football stadium and banners to be placed on the home and visitor sides of the field.

Dr. Stessman reviewed the construction of a new bus barn and the removal of the old one which has been there since just after the 1966 tornado. This building will block the lagoon and be OSHA compliant as the old bus barn is not.

Dr. Stessman was asked why Shawnee Heights changed leagues. He explained the difference between the two leagues and that there was a competitive disadvantage for Shawnee Heights in playing 6A schools. Manhattan, Topeka High and Auburn-Washburn are all twice as large as SHHS and if split into two schools each would be two 5A high schools. Sixty percent of league championships were won in the last decade by these two schools. This concept was brought to the Board of Education two years ago, so this decision was not taken lightly by the Board and studied and reviewed carefully. Shawnee Heights is now in the United Kansas League.

12. **Adjournment**

Tamara Edington moved the meeting adjourn. Seconded by Jennifer Forshee-Weichert, motion carried 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

*The next meeting for the District Advisory Council will be Monday, October 8, 2018.*