

# Dixie Middle School Community Council Meeting January 15, 2025

## AGENDA

Meeting called to order at 11:35

### Those in attendance:

Paul Hurt - Principal

Alice Ericksen - Vice Principal

Crystal Eggen - Teacher Rep

Jennie Braley - Parent

Emily Murphy - Parent

Melissa Despain - Parent

Heather Little - Parent

De'dy Chivers - Parent

## **Housekeeping**

- Review Minutes

## **Business**

- Nest

Emily Sharp gave a presentation. Counseling staff oversees the nest. The nest is adjacent to the counseling offices. Students are free to chill during lunch. Can't focus, cry, need a safe place to calm down and regulate. Nest pass from teachers. Student checks into the Nest and log in. Rate what emotions they are feeling and how deeply. Use any coping tools for 10 minutes. That is average to self-regulate. If having a panic attack more time is given in 10 minute increments. They check out and do the self-evaluation again to see where they are on the scale again. Usually a 4-5 when they come but a 1-2 when they leave. Most schools in the district have these areas in their schools. The nest averages about 15 students a week. Kids don't take advantage of this tool. If they are, it is caught quickly. Teachers don't want it to be a stigma so they will let them go easily. Personal experiences show that it has been very helpful. Counselors monitor the area. This is very helpful because we don't have a therapist on site as much anymore. Community partners are helping with this. Counselors also offer counseling to teach skills, not therapy. Up to 8 sessions.

- Study Skills support - Threefold mission

1. Study Skills class - Students who are online or failing classes and they can take it as an elective to get help.
2. Respect and restore - students who need extra help because of issues that have been assigned to be there can get help. They will come here at some point in escalation (in-school suspension)
3. Lunch recovery time / make ups - students with excessive tardies, missing work

- Beach House

Team Raw is the grant we have with Juvenile Justice to help at risk kids to stay out of trouble. We only get them a few hours a week. Kids that have been fighting. Meet regularly with Polynesian students who are a club. Minority groups are ones that struggle. Community donations have also helped to buy the furniture, games, etc. Group brings 3-5 adults with background checks, also trained to mentor, not district employees so it helps that they are just adults to help students that aren't teachers/administrators. Bear is the one who runs this and have the DJ coming at lunch. Also do after school and summer programs too.

- Food Pantry

A closet filled with supplies for kids. Food bank drops off food and counselors put together boxes for families that need it. Any student can ask for it and get it. No questions asked. Every Friday students get it who need it for the weekend. It's in the closet in the Study Skills classroom. Everyone helps to get things unloaded and packed, even Joe, the custodian. We have a lower socioeconomic class with more needs than most secondary schools in the district but we love it!

- Student council visit

They are amazing and help to keep kids motivated to be here with fun activities, theme days, dances, etc. How have you been impacted by Dixie Middle School.

**Felicity Yost** - All the teachers are really supportive and help the students in any way they can. Took a week long trip and they all helped to help her make up work.

**Zena Zufelt** - Teachers really care about the subject they teach. They don't blow it off or just use online stuff. Lessons are planned out and it makes her feel good. Makes her said when the kids don't respect

**Deklyn Murphy** - She loves the classroom management. Most of the time the teachers can find a calm, easy way to deflect the disruptions to get back on track in the classroom. Use humor

**Mattex Mackay** - He likes that the school is open and inclusive

**Zeke McQuivey** - Everyone is nice and feels like everyone is friends. Teachers/staff focus on the students and not just the grades by helping them out. Fun activities too. Moved from Crimson and loves it here.

**Tyson Hansen** - He likes activities like Halloween Carnival/Valentine's Dance. Mrs. Peacock gets the SPED kids and honors them and the students all pitch in to make them feel special. Loves that the kids all help each other.

When asked about bullying they talked about the difference between bullying and teasing. There are cliques but feel like they are all still trying to be friends with everyone. Friend groups are present but you are pretty welcome to join with anyone. Friendliness present. Getting to know more kids is their goal and they feel like they are willing to talk and have a conversation. One of them talked about depression/suicidal thoughts and doesn't have those issues anymore because it's a good environment here. He also tries to help/listen to others. Don't be afraid to talk to everyone. Hope Squad members try to unify the groups more and pull kids from those groups to get opinions on what is needed. "Make a Friend" lunch is coming in two weeks. Help with Japanese students and represent the school well.

- Approve Plan or further discussion  
Jennie Braley motioned to table this to February meeting  
Crystal Eggen seconded  
Approved to TABLE TO FEBRUARY MEETING

- Signature Form  
TABLED TO FEBRUARY MEETING

### **Items for next meeting**

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Next Meeting: February 12 , 2024 @ 11:30 am

Jennie Braley motioned to adjourn meeting  
Crystal Eggen seconded

Meeting adjourned at 12:29pm