

June 10, 2009 Parent Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting began 9:00am

Meeting attendance: Jeff Herr, Karen Ratcliff, Ranae Monsen, Kimberly Allred, Teri Lane, and Julie Nuttall

- Next PAG meeting is being moved from Tuesday, June 16th @ 1:30pm to Thursday, June 25th @ 1:30pm.
- Jeff states that PAG is new with K12 and UTVA that he will have to get with Paul Glanton who is over the Booster Club to coordinate what the specific roles each group is involved with. However, Jeff is aware that PAG is involved in the governance aspect of the school, as well as PAG is the voice of the parents to the board while at the board meetings; such as getting the parents perspectives on rigorous testing. The Booster Club is involved in the activities of the school, as well as building and boosting our school community.
- Ranae wanted to know if PAG was going to have access to the parents. Jeff stated that he would need to have a discussion with Mike Kunz to ask who would be able to have access to the PAG kmail. Jeff stated that Ranae and/or Kimberly would be the individual(s) who would have the email/kmail access to the parents.
- Jeff's responsibilities to PAG are to help facilitate and support PAG. Ranae's expectations for Jeff is to get PAG started because she is still hazing on what PAG's responsibilities are, as she wanted to know what the group did besides conversing with parents.
- Teri wanted to inquire about other K12 schools having a functioning PAG. Jeff states that we are breaking good ground and it would be a great opportunity to set standards and have a voice; it is a speaking but non-voting position. Jeff does believe that Idaho has a PAG.
- Teri also inquired about the older schools. Jeff stated that the older K12 school groups are Ohio, Agora, Pennsylvania Virtual, California, and Colorado. Teri then stated, "It is helpful to understand what other schools are doing."
- Jeff states that we are building a mentor program for other schools to follow.
- Jeff stated that communication is key in how we can be concise. A monthly newsletter was suggested to rectify the communication, because what happens in high school is different than what happens in elementary school.
- Jeff declared that Mary Gifford had mentioned that the UTVA staff held the beginning of the school year together very well. The problem of receiving school materials should be fixed as we have our old distributor working with us again. For this school year we actually start school toward the bottom third; Hawaii actually starts school in the beginning of August. UTVA students should have their school materials well before school starts. Jeff states that when the K12 customer added in more employees to help with the problem of not receiving the required school materials, it would be helpful if the new and existing employees knew what they were talking about. They are in the process of being trained better.
- PAG is a great tool for parents to know where to turn. Jeff stated that UTVA is adding a POG beginning next school year. The POG is a Parent Organization Guide. A meeting will be held on July 10th to revise this guide. Ranae asked Jeff if PAG would be able to preview the POG before being finalized. Jeff agreed that it would be a great idea. Ranae also stated that information for returning school materials should be in the POG, as well as including PAG information.
- It was stated by Jeff that Paul Glanton should look into a welcome packet for new families. Teri said that she could get a copy of the welcome packet from Christine in Ohio.
- Jeff stated that he had talked about testing with Kathy and modifications are going to be made. Kathy has created a great schedule for the students. The 3rd grade IOWA's will be completed in conjunction with the CRT's. Scantron testing will be completed in early April while the CRT's will be completed towards the end of April. This new schedule is to benefit the students so that their calendars do not overlap or overcrowd with these tests of finals for the high school students. The testing schedule will be a lot more user friendly. Traveling computer labs will be used to complete testing by computer. Jeff states that at first the computer labs will be expensive, but eventually they will pay for themselves, because renting places costs UTVA quite a bit of money. The computers labs will also

allow more flexibility for UTVA to take part in other school activities. UTVA is actually the only school that is currently completing testing with a pencil and paper test. Other schools think that is weird, especially since UTVA is a virtual school. Testing has been a bit of a nightmare for the places such as Salt Lake Community College because we require too much time that it conflicts with their regular school schedule. UTVA discovered that Washington Online has fewer testing days than UTVA and the parents were still able to have their students attend testing days. UTVA is now going to be assigning fewer testing days.

- Teachers will be reporting back to parents in a meeting to go over the data from the testing so that an individualized learning plan can be created. The Scantron testing is designed to give immediate feedback to the teacher, parent, and student.
- Jeff would like better communication with all who is involved in UTVA.
- Jeff stated that he will be going over SAIT's to get hard concrete data with PAG and board.
- As the PAG board is trying to figure out what the duties are of the specific positions that have been filled, and what the function of the group as a whole is. Jeff stated that the committee council is replaced with the charter school boards. Trust plans are driven by PTA. He also stated that more representation from the parents was needed; he suggested Ranae and a Booster parent to be on the Trust Land Committee.
- Jeff once again stated that the Booster Club is all about building culture and activities. The PAG is the school governance. To clarify, Jeff stated that PAG is the difference between the committee council and PTA.
- Members of the PAG would like there to be clarification of the difference between PAG and the Booster Club written in the POG.
- Ranae wanted to know what could be done on the PAG level to help the teachers out more. Jeff stated that we need to utilize parents for volunteering; "get them mobilized."
- Jeff stated that the State Charter Conference will be held on June 16th and 17th at the University of Utah. The National Charter Conference will be held the week after. Jeff had mentioned that UTVA will always be at these conferences.
- PAG was supposed to come up with By Laws at this meeting, but we are still unsure of what our function is as PAG; more research needs to be completed. PAG members do have the Charter to refer to if needed.
- Meeting is adjourned at 9:56am.