

## Pleasant Grove Community Counsel Minutes, January 14

Training Video – History of Trust Funds in Utah. Utah is using the Lands to generate money for schools. Natural Gas and Oil are the most productive. Tens of millions of dollars a year are earned. A Quarter of a Billion dollars is earned through economic development. Lands that have more income generating potential are kept. Self Generating income is managed. About 30-50 thousand a year goes to Elementary Schools. About 80-100 thousand goes to High Schools. It is extra money that buys computer labs, extra aids, science labs equipment and so forth.

Our Funds are \$83,000 for Pleasant Grove High School, and we are one of the biggest High Schools. The State Legislature voted against a cap. Trust Lands are just for schools. Some States in the United States have classes capped at 15. Trust Lands are a great resource. Utah has the lowest amount of money per student in the United States. With the amount of resources given to us we do really well. Idaho is \$700 more per student, and they are second lowest. Utah's tax dollars are well managed. About \$6,000 per student in Utah. We have to pay for Sports, and extra things out of pocket. Core class sizes are the priority!

The English teachers have to grade so many papers. We have one extra aid for grading. Guidelines are followed for what has to be in place when grading is done. Professionals are the ones who help those struggling in States with higher taxes. Volunteers often help in our schools. Pleasant Grove High School has higher than average SAT scores.

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Trackers do the work of following the homework for students who are falling behind. On a weekly basis the teacher is supposed to update the grades. The teachers should notify the parents if the student is in danger of failing a class. Up until this year letters were sent, now e-mails are sent to the parents. Skyward is also where you can track student's grades. When kids don't have parental support, an advocate is assigned to them. Most teachers do send out e-mails if a student is close to failing. They are supposed to contact the parents. Students can make up work after a grade has been turned in.

We still have CRT yearly tests. The kids who are not passing CRT are tracked. The trackers purpose is to help those who are really struggling. Teachers are using Advisory when they pull students out during lunch for 25 minutes, four days a week. Counselors work to get the correct level of classes the students need. Students have many different reasons why they are getting Fs.

With no child left behind, Trackers would go get a student to take an exam. Usually just the same five students. 91% of students graduated last year. 78% is the National average. This is a four year graduation rate. Inner City rates are 40%. Advocates are really helping the students graduate. They work with 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Counselors work with the 12<sup>th</sup> graders the most. The students have to do the work themselves, but it is a great support system. Disabled students count also. There are about 10% of the students who are IEP students, which stands for Individual Educational Plan given to disabled students. The future goal will probably be to maintain over 90% graduation level.

The English teachers have requested a grading aid to help with the big class sizes, to help in reading essays. They are currently using their department money to pay a grader. Are we doing the right things to help the students? Do we need to change anything? Money has to be juggled. Adjusting where the money goes is good to keep things moving effectively.

We currently have three advocates who work 29 hours a week. Two more advocates work for 12 hours a week to help with developmental students and students who are learning English as a second language. Volunteers were considered for helping as advocates, but they would have to come every day. It is \$60 per volunteer to do a background check. They visit Elementary schools daily also.

Intel has been coming in and helping with math. Latinos in action is making a big difference. They really need the support. What we are being graded on as a school just changed in September. The three main areas we are graded on are, Graduation rate, progress in Science, Math and English and ACT scores. Below proficient students count twice against the school. We received the second highest grade in Utah. Davis was the Highest. American Fork spent a lot on technology.

Next meeting Tim Brantly will tell us more about how the schools are graded.

Reading skills, especially comprehension, is being targeted in Junior High. Tim Brantly has a Reading Endorsement and was an English teacher. Speed Reading comprehension class would be so beneficial. When the common core curriculum was implemented the teachers had to follow it. March 10 we will see how the computers will be grading the CRT test scores. Common core is pushing comprehension of texts rather than just fiction. More informational reading, research, and a love for learning is the point now. Book clubs get to pick from a list and the teacher gets to

get packets. They have discussions in groups of four. They do skits, they bring treats. They write about things based on the subject. It helps them focus on the subject.

The Common Core is not a big change in information. It is more rigorous, and the students are expected to do higher level thinking at a younger age. The testing hasn't come through yet, but we will see some results at the end of this school year. American Institute of Research makes up the tests nationally AIR, or STAR. The CRT tests may be made up nationally. Local committees review the tests. Mark says the state of Utah pulled out of the national group and is making up some of the tests. It is important to recognize what is accurate information on Common Core. Tim knows some people who have helped developed the tests in Utah. It is unconstitutional to have the tests made nationally according to one member. Utah is now doing our own tests. This forum is not for discussing Common Core according to Mark.

The new administration coming in to the City is interested in doing some land swapping. At the City Counsel Meeting Rob Smith gave a presentation. The overall plan would be to be able to purchase the land for Battlefield Park, then rebuild the pavilion and keep the name of the park. Tennis courts can then go up from six to eight, which is the standard to have tournaments. We need an update from Rob Smith to intervene before final decisions are made. We need to have another meeting with Rob Smith. ADA regulations, more parking, and we need access through that park are some reasons for getting it.

20 thousand a year for the cell phone tower goes to our high school. Let's see how the grader for English helps before we agree to hire a grader for them.