

University High School Council

Minutes 2019-2020

Meeting Date: 09/10/2019

Meeting Location: RUHS Library

Members present	Administration	Faculty	Students	Parents
	Joel Bacalia	Kimberly King	Julian Barraza	Barney Holtzman
		Jeff Marchant	Iselle Barrios	Marisa Menchola
		Ann Mitchell	Brian Belakovsky	Chris Read
		Mike Schmidt	Rachel Dai	Lea Standridge
		Leiba Schuneman	Hannah Dyer	Kara Vathauer
		Hannah Sinclair	Reia Li	George Youngerman
	Community Members	Matt Ulrich	Andy Pendleton	
	Kris Tully		Daniella Quihuis-Granillo	
Members absent	Community Members	Faculty	Students	Parents
	Kevin Gebert	Beth Braun		Karen Peters
	Administration			Tim Sonier
	Amy Cislak			
	Andrea Evans			

- I. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve.
 - i. Motion by Schuneman.
 - ii. Second by Bacalia.
 - b. No items for discussion.
 - c. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.
- II. Approval of the August 13th, 2019 Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve.
 - i. Motion by Standridge.
 - ii. Second by Schuneman.
 - b. Item for correction (Bacalia): Our new French teacher's last name is Morris.
 - c. Minutes as amended approved by unanimous voice vote.
- III. Call to the Audience
 - a. Sully Bushell (UHS Senior): Mr. Bushell is starting a musical theater club sponsored by Ms. Boosamra. He is requesting \$1325 in tax credit funds to pay royalty fees to Musical Theater International for the show *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

IV. Discussion & Action Items

- a. Action Item: Request for tax credit funds—UHS Musical Theater Club: \$1325
 - i. Motion to approve.
 - 1. Motion by Standridge.
 - 2. Second by Youngerman.
 - ii. Mr. Youngerman informed the Council that the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the request. Other members of the Finance Committee (Pendleton, Belakovsky) pointed out that the request is for a relatively small amount relative to the funds currently available, and that it would directly support a student activity.
 - iii. Discussion: Issues discussed included whether the royalties deposit would be recovered if the show is not performed for some reason (it would likely be refunded at a prorated rate); club fundraiser efforts and projected income relative to the amount being requested; the likelihood of long-term survival of the new club and what would happen to its tax credit funds if it were to dissolve (the funds would go to the undesignated tax credit fund); and the need for this new club (per Mr. Bushell, Ms. Boosamra currently stages one musical every other year and this club would allow students to stage more frequent, smaller productions).
 - iv. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- b. Discussion Item: Update on RBF/AP Bonus Monies
 - i. Chair Schmidt: Funds have been received from the state and used to determine the minimum RBF payout, which came to slightly above \$6,000. Chair Schmidt clarified that 2 FTEs were held in reserve (~\$110,000) as emergency funding, in case we lost FTEs. At this point, we do not expect to lose FTEs and, if we do not, Principal Cislak would like to ask faculty for recommendations for spending, since these were funds generated by faculty performance. Their recommendation would then come to the Site Council for approval.
 - ii. Discussion: The bonuses are expected to be paid in the September 13th paycheck.
- c. Discussion Item: Update on Stakeholder Representative email addresses
 - i. Chair Schmidt: We were waiting on the creation of TUSD addresses for all students to create email addresses for a representative for each Site Council stakeholder group. That still has not happened. The recommendation is that we create temporary email addresses through a service like Gmail for students, parents, and community members. Faculty emails will continue to be handled by Chair Schmidt.
 - ii. No further discussion.

V. Committee & Misc. Reports

- a. Principal's Report – Bacalia
 - i. The administrator book clubs held their first meeting. There are about 60 students between the three clubs. Other students are still welcome to join.

- ii. We need volunteers for the Honor Code Review Committee. This opportunity is open to students and parents and not only Site Council members.
- iii. Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Thursday September 12th from 4 to 6PM in 10-minute time slots. Teachers can also be contacted via email/phone and separate meetings can be scheduled.
- iv. The UHSPA meeting is on Thursday September 12th from 6 to 7PM.
- v. Friday September 13th is a half day with 11:43AM dismissal.
- vi. Homecoming game, tailgate, and band performance is Friday, September 13th. Homecoming dance is on Saturday September 14th.
- vii. A possible threat was reported during the Rincon homecoming dance. Police were notified and the dance was dispersed. This turned out to be a false alarm. We will have school security, TPD officers, teachers, and administrators monitoring the homecoming dance.
- viii. We are organizing a screening of *Screenagers*, a documentary about the effect of cell phones and computer screens on mental health, eyesight, and focus. The screening is planned for the first semester.
- b. Tax Credit & Budget Committee Report – Youngerman
 - i. About \$35,000 are available as of the last report.
 - ii. The committee sent a note out to clubs that might be planning on asking for funds to encourage them to reach out to the committee early so we can plan ahead.
 - iii. There are currently 6 students in the committee, one staff member (Martina Kimball), and one faculty member (Nicole Hamilton). Chair Schmidt clarified that the only requirement by policy is that it include 3 Site Council members, so the committee is in compliance, but increased diversity of members would be good for representation of stakeholders.
- c. Recruitment and Retention Committee Report– Bacalia
 - i. Step-Up Day is on October 23rd. We are bringing in about 500 students who are initial qualifiers (i.e., have passed the Cog-AT requirement).
 - ii. Two Cog-AT prep sessions will be held in the Fall. This is the second year these will be held, led by Mr. Schmidt. Students who attended were highly successful last year. We will be organizing presentations for the parents that bring their students to the sessions.
 - iii. December 7th is the last planned date for current 8th graders to take the Cog-AT.
- d. Instructional Council Report – Schuneman
 - i. The committee met on August 14th. Items discussed at that meeting included:
 - 1. vote to deny a petition from a student to drop their math class;
 - 2. need for additional freshman textbooks (given larger freshman class size) and planning for future need for more sophomore textbooks;
 - 3. issues with computers for computers-on-wheels (COWs): more computers are being purchased so we will have 36 computers per COW, given increased class sizes; and
 - 4. the importance of teachers attending school on standardized test days.

- e. UHS Foundation & Alumni Association – Tully
 - i. The foundation is comprised of UHS graduates, parents of graduates, current/former teachers, and community members associated with UHS.
 - ii. Two Foundation members met with the superintendent to work on developing a partnership and access to desegregation monies.
 - iii. The new Chair of the TUSD Audit Committee is a UHS alumnus.
 - iv. Ms. Tully gave an overview of Foundation programs that provide funding and other opportunities for students, including the UA Shine program, the professional development program (with placements with Caterpillar, IBM, and St. Mary's Hospital), Keys for College, debit cards for students who need emergency assistance, micro-grants, and the Pilote Program for seniors.
 - v. The current Foundation budget is around \$500,000, of which about \$51,000 is unrestricted.
 - vi. The purpose of the Foundation is to facilitate communication between students/teachers and members of the community, including alumni. They can help find opportunities for students with specific interests.
 - vii. Discussion: Mr. Youngerman proposed that the Foundation present a similar overview of these programs during a UHSPA meeting.
- f. UHS Parents' Association
 - i. No meeting has been held since the last Site Council meeting. No updates.
 - ii. The next UHSPA meeting is on Thursday September 12th from 6 to 7PM.
- g. Student Council Report – Barraza
 - i. Homecoming weekend is this week. On Thursday there will be a joint assembly with Rincon during 2nd period. The committee has been working with vendors and organizing activities for the tailgate and game on Friday September 13th and the dance on Saturday September 14th. There will be two TPD police officers at the dance in addition to school monitors, teachers, and administrators. Tailgate wristbands are \$5, dance tickets are \$20, and bundles that include tickets to the tailgate, game, and dance are \$25.
 - ii. Discussion: If a student cannot afford tickets to homecoming events, they can approach Mr. Olanick to request a waiver.
- VI. Request for Agenda Items for next meeting (please submit action & discussion items in electronic format)
- VII. Reminders:
 - a. School Council meeting time and place will be posted 24 hours in advance (on UHS Admin. Bulletin Board and in public). Attendance and minutes will be submitted to a School Council officer prior to the next meeting.
 - b. Please observe proper decorum and schedule your time to be able to attend the entire School Council meeting. Each meeting should last 90 minutes and will be adjourned by 5:00 p.m. A quorum, your time, and your participation are valued assets of the UHS School Council.

- VIII. Adjournment at 4:38 p.m.
- a. Motion to adjourn.
 - i. Motion by Schuneman.
 - ii. Second by Bacalia.
 - b. Passes by Unanimous consent.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 15th, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the RUHS Library (third Tuesday of the month due to fall break)