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APPROVED MINUTES

CORAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE LAS VEGAS ACADEMIC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Information

Date: Monday, October 14, 2019
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Location: 8965 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 280 Las Vegas, NV 89123

Posting of Agenda:

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Format / Procedures / Rules:

[See Agenda for information regarding format, procedure, and rules governing the meeting]

Agenda

Call to order Ms. Hayman called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

Roll Call Present: Ms. Hayman, Ms. Kazelskis, and Dr. Warren.

Pledge of Allegiances

A. Public Comment (*Information*)

[Please see the Agenda for the procedures and rules regarding Public Comments.]

C. Discussion & Possible Action Items – Policy

1. Discussion Regarding the status of Special Education services at CASLV (*For Possible Action*)

Ms. Cristine Hanna presented a PowerPoint presentation with a basic overview of SpEd numbers. There are 237 total caseloads at all six campuses. Nellis has 76, Centennial Hills 50, Eastgate has 40, Windmill has 15, Tamarus 23, and Sandy Ridge 33. Ms. Hanna noted Nellis numbers fluctuate a lot due to military orders, and there are a lot of initial evaluations pending.

An overview of CASLV SpEd staff members (teachers, facilitators, support staff) at each campus was reviewed. Ms. Hanna answered various questions from the subcommittee regarding the staffing needs of the SpEd department, and informed the subcommittee we are in a much better place staffing wise than we were last year. Our current staffing needs are 1 licensed SpEd self-contained teacher, 2 SpEd aides and a SpEd facilitator at Nellis which are the only open positions. Also needed is a Speech Pathologist, School Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, and Physical Therapist. Ms. Hanna noted, as our numbers are increasing, it will not hurt us to have additional SpEd staff members.

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Ms. Hayman asked who is overseeing SpEd minute compliances which is one of the main concerns for SpEd Special Services. Ms. Hanna confirmed that she is personally doing this. Ms. Hanna's staff shares their caseloads with her and she monitors each case at the end of each week. Ms. Hanna noted the SpEd department is getting ready to start an auditing process which is supported by the State Public Charter Authority. The facilitators and Ms. Hanna will be going to each campus to audit each file. They will then give each case manager a list of any missing items. Ms. Hanna is working closely with United Testing Services to ensure they are in compliance as well.

Ms. Hanna noted that she and the HR department are working on filling the open SpEd positions. She acknowledged the high need of these positions in the State of Nevada. Some of the feedback she has received from potential candidates was regarding the salary. Some candidates wanted higher salaries. Their base pay at the district is the same as the CASLV pay scale; however, there are different ways they receive extra pay. Ms. Hanna explained she does not have concrete evidence of this but that this is the feedback she is receiving from candidates that are turning down offers from CASLV. Ms. Hayman noted there are added incentives at CASLV that some of the other schools do not offer like tuition reimbursement, grade level chairs, etc. Ms. Hanna agreed that these incentives are certainly attractive for teachers. Mr. Ercan explained we are working on improving our salary scale overall for all teachers.

Ms. Hanna explained we have a very good SpEd team in place and we are going in the right direction. Ms. Hayman noted there is also a shortage of SpEd teachers at CCSD. Dr. Warren asked CASLV Administration to think more creatively on how to incentivize in obtaining new hires. Ms. Hanna noted she would work on an analysis of United Testing Services for the subcommittee.

This was an information item and no action was taken.

2. Update Regarding Star Ratings and Changes on Nevada School Performance Framework (*For Possible Action*)

Mr. Gunozu presented the Nevada School Performance Framework for Elementary, Middle School and High School levels. The subcommittee reviewed CASLV's school reports that our evaluations were based on. Mr. Gunozu also provided the subcommittee with the report card for each campus. The subcommittee reviewed a summary of the achievements with a breakdown for each campus for all indicators including Elementary, Middle School and High School.

Mr. Gunozu then reviewed the specifics on how the NDE rates public schools. Elementary framework uses SBAC, English, Math and in 5th grade Science tests. They also look at the number of students that failed the year before as well as attendance and chronic absences. CASLV Nellis campus received 2 stars and the other elementary campuses all received 4 stars. Tamarus campus was not graded because they only had 3rd grade last year.

For Middle School, the ratings are very similar to Elementary, but the difference is Middle School has a certain number of credits to be obtained before being promoted to High School. Each student should also have an academic learning plan for each

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grade level. All of our five middle school campuses received 5-Star rating. Nellis middle school received the highest score among all CASLV campuses and third highest score among all Nevada middle schools.

Nellis Campus Elementary School report card shows that the target for 2019 was having 48.5% of our students proficient in math, however only 45.5% of our students were proficient so we lost the achievement points. Target for English part was met, the target was 57% and they scored 60.1%. The targets are set by the NDE and they increase by 3 points each year.

Mr. Gunozu acknowledged the need for qualified instructional staff. Nellis campus had three substitutes as the subcommittee thinks this may be the reason for the lower scores. Mr. Ercan informed the board that last year we had performance issues with the administration team at Nellis campus, which has now been rectified. CASLV Nellis campus now has a new principal in place that was assigned to improve the school culture.

CASLV administration had a meeting with the Nellis Base Commanders to discuss the current star ratings, and they understand the impact of the chronic absenteeism. In the future we will be keeping them in loop so they can possibly help improve this chronic absenteeism. We will provide them with a report without student's names due to privacy concerns. We missed 3 stars for elementary at our Nellis campus by 1.67%.

Mr. Gunozu informed the subcommittee that High School targets are based on the number of students that are proficient on the ACT (Math and ELA) and HS science exams. Our targets were substantially higher than the states targets. We will be starting a class on Saturday for 11th graders to improve their ACT scores. Our Sandy Ridge campus high school received 5-Star rating

This was an information item and no action was taken.

3. Update Regarding Academic Interventions at Nellis AFB campus

Mr. Gunozu explained since last year CASLV's Nellis campus has an intervention period built in their schedule which they will continue doing. This year they will be focusing on the intervention groups with the lowest percentile students. This is different from last year and will be more focused. Nellis will have a Saturday school and in school instruction in place like last year. Nellis is also purchasing test prep books (Performance Coach books), and will be renewing Reading Plus and iReady programs. Nellis is also working on improving their Common Formative Assessments (CFA) to ensure students are ready for their tests. Ms. Hayman noted that the coach books are a great tools to prepare for the SBAC tests.

Regarding chronic absenteeism, we have been talking to all stakeholders at Nellis campus regarding the importance of being present, and how the chronic absenteeism affects their students' learning. Middle School had a lower absenteeism, which we would like to maintain. Nellis will be sending surveys soon separately to Elementary and Middle School parents. We are offering Independent Education Program for those

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that need to complete their work from wherever they are located while they are away if they would like to. Academic AP will help improve the success of the distant education program.

CASLV Administration is also working with teachers to increase their skills and capacities to make them more effective. To accomplish this, they are working with RPDP for teachers to attend workshops.

Quarterly celebrations will be scheduled and a more positive school culture is a goal as well. The subcommittee recommends doing a monthly incentive for students with good attendance. Ideas discussed were extra recess, movie and popcorn, free dress, and glow stick parties. It was also noted that having a new principal in place, and having a new building would help motivate and improve the school culture.

This was an information item and no action was taken.

D. Public Comments (*Information*)

Please see the procedures and rules referenced in item A above.

E. Adjournment (*Action*)

Dr. Warren made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kazelskis.

ACTION: Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.