

SCC 15 April 2015

Daniel Horne conducting:

Attendance: 8 parents 6 faculty members

Approved minutes from last time

System to submit plan is not working currently

Did you watch the videos?

Did you approve the plan?

SCC terms fulfilled and remaining terms

Fulfilled:

Abby Young
Daniel Horne
Michelle Bagley
Donni Morrey
Sergio Silva
Stephanie Wolfley

One year remaining:

Pete Swiderski
Tom Paul
Sharon Christensen
Kara Edwards
Amber Gardiner
Heather Morgan
Marie Pavich
Kim Pence
Liz Walbom
Jamie Ward

Needed next year:

5 faculty positions and 3 parent positions

Crisis Response for MRJH

Consistency in response for any death in the school; more challenging when the death is a suicide.

Interaction with the family and what their wishes are

- Confidentiality that parents wish to keep
- Visit with parents of the student to determine what the family is willing to share versus what to not share
- Be factual and eliminate any speculation

- Control social media by providing factual information and not speculation
- Monitor student response and grief
- Email sent home to parents
- Faculty read a prewritten statement
 - Balance sensationalizing the situation and providing information and comfort for those who are grieving
- Meet with faculty and answer question and share how the school's response should be
- Post-vention response...what happens when the students and faculty find out
- Provide counseling for students who wish to talk with a counselor
- Try to have school day as normal as possible...having familiarity of class schedule...while providing counseling options
- Balancing compassion and respect and avoiding sensationalizing or memorializing; compassion vs caution
- If the kids set a memorial, allow it for a couple of days, and then take down and present to the family
- Things that were not allowed:
 - Passing out bracelets, memorabilia
 - Give interviews to news outlets as we are not spokespeople for the family or the community
 - School policy about yearbook pages memorializing the deceased, but allow students to sign a book that will be presented to family
- A variety of accusation and speculations of the cause of the death...as a school we are guarded and sensitive about the response. Standard response, "we are looking into that claim" when people question the causes of the suicide

No questions from the SCC team about the school's response to this situation

As a school we are trained to observe and monitor kids, and recognize warning signs, questioning students, and then report to parents or authorities

We need to build and support a positive climate in the school.

9th grade students go to 7th and 8th grade DEAR classes to share experiences they have had in junior high to share successes and things to watch out for

"What is the school's role?"—having a social worker or therapist could cause the school to have a more extensive role

Parent question: what did the counseling station look like?

Kids were in and out of the room. There was an area where they could talk with one another and a counselor. There was also an area to write letters to the family or whomever they wished.

Principal's focus previous to this experience was just focused on student academic achievement, but now seeing it as a more humane place where students grow up and are prepared for life. The partnership with parents is more involved than just the caring parent and the teaching educator.

Parent comment: we appreciate that MRJH is full of caring individuals who also teach our kids. We think you are doing a great job.

This is uncharted territory for MRJH

Parent comment: I have purposefully brought my children to this school because of the level of care the faculty shows my kids. My kids know they have teachers who care about them.

Suicide is the leading cause of adolescent deaths in Utah

TURNED BACK TO DANIEL HORNE

This is the final meeting; there will be no meeting in May.

--there is a collective approach to the issue of suicide. Principals, mayor, stake presidencies, police chief, fire chief, etc.

Meeting Adjourned