

Oquirrh Elementary School Community Council – October 26, 2016

Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2016

Present: Jimmy Anderson, Lauren Best, Emily Fankhauser, Kira Hansen, Edgar Harwood, Gladys Harwood, Jennifer Jensen, Janice Johnson, and Mandy Thurman.

Absent: Stephanie Grange, Pam Hansen, Edgar Harwood, and Scott Kemp.

Next meeting: January 10, 2017 at 4:15 pm in Oquirrh Library

I. Call to Order

Mandy Thurman called the meeting to order.

II. Reporting

- Financial Report- nothing spent from School Community Council Fund.

III. New Business

- Review and approve minutes from September 20, 2016.

Janice Johnson motioned to approve meeting minutes from September 20, 2016.

Kira Hansen seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

- Review End of Year Land Trust Report

Mandy Thurman reported that we spent the money on specialist and a few aides. With the secretary turnover, the codes were not listed quite right but the amount got covered for the art specialist. Mandy had to adjust the report to list why the change. It still happened according to plan but pay codes had to be adjusted. It is set up correctly now. The plan this year is continue last year's plan and see if we can see further improvements in test scores. Funding the specialists really facilitates the teacher collaboration to reach the needs of specific students. Jennifer Jensen mentioned that the art specialist Sharon Velluto does amazing at making art fit in the current curriculum. Lauren Best said her students really enjoy the program. The 2016-2017 disbursement is \$48,993. We electronically signed it back in April. The email in the past week was a verification for the Land Trust. This discussion was the last component for compliance.

- Fundraiser Discussion

Kira Hansen spoke with Stephanie and she is not sure she cannot manage a lot of time. A one night event is suggested by her. We could hold a movie night or game night. We can talk about in January.

- Recess/Playground Concerns

Mandy Thurman advised the behavior after school has drastically changed since the implementation of the pick up procedure. Parents are generally happy. There are not any reported fights and kids are heading home supervised. There is a five minute bell to get ready to go home, 2 minutes to the end of day is walk out bell and last bell is release time. Gladys Harwood said hearing the last bell is very difficult. The district manages the bell and only one person can work on it. There are work orders active to work on speakers in the front of the school. The new problem is recess. Lunch recess has become a huge problem with bad behavior. It is fights between grade level students. There is about 1 fist fight a month. There is girl drama. It is also a societal problem. We have a general lack of respect. The students really test the art and music teachers with lack of respect. Part of the problem is the recess aides cannot know 700 students and build a relationship with all of them. Mandy said they are

suggesting structured recess as one solution. Kids are not often in structured programs or sports. Kids are playing inappropriate games and making up rules that lead to fights. We need a way to teach kids appropriate playground behavior. We need to teach it before we can expect it of the kids. Mandy would like the PE specialists Paul Pedler would focus on teaching them appropriate behavior. Another solution is to rotating kids through specific zones. Jimmy Anderson suggested doing the first option. If it doesn't solve the problem, then go to the rotation with limited choice. Kira suggested advising the kids that they may lose free time if they don't handle the playground. Lauren would rather have structured if it will keep her kids safe. When problems occur, the student has private recess in 37 second increments. There are red boxes painted on the black top. Students can lose recess. They can have a jump rope and a ball but can't retrieve it. Fist fight means the kids are suspended. There isn't great communication between recess aides and teachers if there are new problems. The aides cannot cover the whole area. One solution was suggested to limit the space to get better supervision. Kids hide between portables. The playground design makes it really hard to supervise. Kira asked about parents, if background checked, can volunteer to help. Mandy advised it could be problematic if they yell at a kids who isn't there. Some of the problems are angry reactions. Other reactions come from making up rules that not all agree on. The psychologist suggested a positive action program. If the SCC could spend money on the program, it could also help the problem. The teachers would teach it in the classroom. Emily asked if they could use the district program. It is similar. They just need to implement it more. Kira said it would be good to offer positive behavior instead of saying don't all the time. The cost is \$400 per class and \$150 for consumables each year. The psychologist suggested starting at Kindergarten and 1st grade. Then each year, we could add a grade. Edgar said it would be good to address the needs of individual grades and their emotional needs. Kira agreed that we need a common vocabulary of respect and how we talk about and encourage good behavior. Jimmy asked if there are other programs that might be cheaper. Mandy advised that she hasn't looked at other programs. The psychologist would be a big support for the program. Emily advised it would be a hard to find an extra 15 minutes every day with academic instructions. If there are a lot of problems though, it needs to be addressed. Gladys reviewed the online reviews. For years, the reviews are positive. It is easy to implement even though it is expensive. Tamra Short is using a the 4th grade version in her 6th grade class. We could pilot it in one class each grade. There could be funding for K-2 to start but not enough for the whole school. Lauren likes the program. It is very structured and easy to get going. Jimmy suggested we try to implement. The council suggests starting with teaching playground behavior. Jimmy suggested that kids in private recess don't need a ball or jump rope. It should be more of a consequence. Parents and students need to learn how to handle conflict. The literacy night would be a great time to have a class on conflict. For the new parent conference, there could be a social component to reach more parents. The new program is designed to engage parents and create a community to help them help their students. There will be data, academic instruction and social components. The next one, teachers could talk about social lessons. Individual appointments can be made for those that don't come or if they want it they can schedule it as well. We are hoping the program will help address parent survey responses on not being able to help their students.

Kira Hansen motioned to have Mr. Pedler teach actual playground behavior and rules during PE to improve recess behavior.

Janice Johnson seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

- Other Questions and Concerns
Skipped due to time constraints

IV. Motion to Adjourn

Emily Fankhauser motioned to adjourn the meeting

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Janice Johnson seconded the motion

All council members voted in favor of the motion

V. Next Meeting

10 January 2017

4:15 pm Oquirrh Library

Janice Johnson will email the minutes to Jimmy for approval by council

Jimmy Anderson will create the agenda for the next meeting and post on the website