

# Oquirrh Elementary School Community Council – January 10, 2017

## Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

*Present:* Jimmy Anderson, Shanna Anderson, Emily Fankhauser, Stephanie Grange, Kira Hansen, Pam Hansen, Jennifer Jensen, Janice Johnson, and Mandy Thurman.

*Absent:* Edgar Harwood, Gladys Harwood, and Scott Kemp.

*Next meeting:* March 14, 2017 at 4:15 pm in Oquirrh Library

---

### I. Call to Order

Mandy Thurman called the meeting to order.

### II. Reporting

- Financial Report- nothing new to report.

### III. New Business

- Review and approve minutes from October 26, 2016.

Kira Hansen motioned to approve meeting minutes from September 20, 2016.

Pam Hansen seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

- Review and Approve Safe Walking Map for 2017-2018

Mandy advised that we have a lot of changes coming with the Bangerter Overpass project. She wants to leave the plan as is for now but leave it open because changes will occur and we will need to adjust it. We need to be able to adjust and fix when problems arrive as construction begins. The new skybridge will go on Dixie Drive and all the kids west of Bangerter will then cross 7000 South at Bromley Road. The flashing lights are high and further from crosswalks. Depending on time of year and time of day, visibility is extremely poor. With about a 1/3 of the school using that crosswalk once the bridge moves, the problem will need to be addressed. Parents on the east side of 3200 west are also voicing concern about the crosswalk by the church. Now that the sidewalk is completed on the east side of 3200 west and homes are there, some kids will just run across 3200 west to avoid walking to the crosswalk and walking back. The school has a teacher trying to monitor and stop kids from doing that. However, it has been suggested that moving the crosswalk on 3200 west to New World Drive would eliminate most of that problem and allow kids all along 3200 west to have a safe crossing across New World Drive which is a feeder street for the school. It can be just as busy as Paddington and makes it unsafe for kids to cross north to south at that road to even reach the crosswalk. One parent has confirmed calling the city about the change and Mandy has spoken with the city but they say it is costly to move a crosswalk light. Janice confirmed that the city this past school year has changed the crosswalk and signal for Joel P. Jensen. They put in a push button crosswalk sign that is at driver eye level and stops traffic for students. There is additional one in front of the West Jordan Post Office. Janice feels that this type of signal would drastically increase the safety of students crossing at 7000 south and be nicer for 3200 west as well. Jimmy voiced concern that we should be addressing this as a larger group and SCC. He asked if we could get the city to a meeting. We need better communication. Mandy Thurman said she would invite them to come to the March meeting to address concerns. She needs to submit our Safe Walking Plan to the city by the end of February.

Jimmy Anderson motioned to approve the Safe Walking Map and Plan as currently completed with the provision that it would need to be open to change as the Bangerter Project construction begins.

Kira Hansen seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

- Fundraiser Discussion

Stephanie Grange advised council that with her new schedule and school she would be unable to coordinate a whole fundraiser. Fundraisers are stressful. Janice asked if a fundraiser was specifically needed. PTA's fundraisers have been going well and they are completely funding field trips for the school. If we don't have a specific plan or specific need, it would be great to forgo a fundraiser. Shanna Anderson said as a parent she would love one less fundraiser. Jen agreed. Parents don't mind helping when there is a specific purpose but multiple fundraisers can be hard on a family. Kira Hansen offered that there are companies that will do everything for a fun run fundraiser. However, they take 50% of the money raised because they manage everything. Kira advised that we could also partner with the Jordan Education Foundation. They do an obstacle course run in June. If we contribute support, we get some funds. Pam Hansen advised that we would need a member for the committee and then to help advertise. Janice said the run is in combination with a big summer reading and safety fair. It is a huge event. Pam Hansen said she would be willing to be our contact and committee member with the Jordan Education Foundation. Her Girls on the Run group also needs service hours and they could promote and hang the advertising signs at the school to complete that requirement. All members could really help promote the run and encourage participation. It is a fun event and happens the first Saturday after school gets out.

Stephanie Grange motioned to put our fundraising efforts into working with the Jordan Education Foundation Fun Run in June.

Jennifer Jensen seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

- APTT Thoughts

Stephanie really enjoyed the APTT. She went to 2. She suggests that each grade does a different activity. She repeated the activity in 1st and 5th grade. Kira said it was good. Mandy said there is really a lot of mixed feedback. There were a lot of parents who loved it. There were those who hated it and majority of them didn't even attend because they loved the old parent teacher conference format. Stephanie did miss the one-on-one moment. Emily Fankhauser said it was hard to not let parents know how she knows their students personally and get a chance to connect with them. Shanna Anderson and Jen Jensen asked about scheduling individual appointments. Mandy advised that is always an option before and after school. It just needs to be coordinated with the teacher. It was suggested that a personal note from teacher about the student in the APTT folder might be one way to address that the teacher does know the student for parents. Shanna likes to see the interaction with the student and teacher at the first conference. Jen like to connect with teacher at that conference and show support to the teacher in front of her student to really help the child understand that they have the parent's backing. Janice asked if we can change the format. The program is state funded and we have coaches to help make sure it is going right. Mandy advised that the state of Utah as a whole is moving in this direction. We are part of the beginning trial. It is important to find out what is missing and how the school can fill in the gaps and address needs. Jimmy asked council members if they had to choose one, which would they choose? Stephanie said APTT. Jimmy and Shanna would choose parent teacher conference. Jen would choose traditional parent teacher conference as well. Pam Hansen says she misses the interaction with the parents. She wants to connect with parents. She likes the home visits. She wants to do a second scheduled home visit. She had a great success story with APTT. A student made great strides because the adults in the child's life knew how to help. Pam would choose to go with APTT. Kira and Shanna said home visits

can be a way to connect but the timing and implementation isn't there currently for it to really effectively replace what was accomplished by parent teacher conference. Emily Fankhauser said she would choose parent teacher conference. Kira chose APTT. It taught valuable skills that were needed. APTT eliminated math night needs. She knew how to really implement strategies to help with math. Janice would choose APTT. She got more out of it than all other parent teacher conferences with her kids in the past 9 years since her daughter was in Kindergarten. She did advise that her students don't struggle academically so it could be different for parents who need to connect with the teacher to really address academic needs. Emily offered that changing APTT to differentiate academic levels could be considered so that parents who need enrichment ideas could get those and other parents could get strategies to help students who are struggles. Jimmy and Shanna suggested adding a one-on-one time in the year. By eliminating a family night and provide time for one-on-one appointment, the school could address the both objectives of teaching parents how to help students while giving them important one-on-one interaction with student and teacher. Mandy asked about having a 2 hour open house style where those who want it could come. Jen agreed that eliminating those nights since they are addressed with APTT and providing the option for one-on-one could really meet the needs of the community.

Mandy summarized that both formats address important needs in a student's education. APTT not only helps parents know how to help their students, it has a goal to build a community and connect parents to help support each other. Kira worked with parent last year which helped when a situation arose between her student and another. By speaking with the parent and knowing the other parent, the situation was quickly resolved. Pam said when parents contributed suggestions at APTT made a big impact. It provides real life feedback and help everyone. We have 2 communities in Oquirrh. We have established families and families who live in poverty. We have become more disconnected with technology. Families do not know each other. It is important to build community and bridge the differences to help all students and parents. Shanna said that Mr. Young really explained why the community part was important. It changed her mind about APTT. If we can explain that better, it would help the school community understand. Jimmy suggested explaining better at Back to school night the importance of APTT and really emphasizes the community portion. Pam wants even more feedback from parents of what works and then they will share it with all the parents. Kindergarten is already trying to implement that component to help all parents with real world strategies that work. Pam suggested holding the first one earlier like October to help parents work with students and then have a parent teacher component in November. It would get the best of both worlds. Mandy will review all suggestions and make improvements and appropriate changes for next year. Communication for this year will improve as well. The options for student during APTT will change. If parents have a lot of students, it does make it hard to get to every APTT. Mandy has suggested that parents chose one if too much and they schedule a one-on-one time with the other student's teachers. Mandy thanked the council for their input so that APTT can improve.

- Recess/Playground Concerns Continued Discussion

Mandy advised council on how adding more structure to recess has gone since council last met and discussed the issue. There were behavior problems across the grades. Paul Pedler, the PE specialist, spent 2 weeks teaching playground rules for PE time. He told them the aides would enforce the rules. There is now a place for dedicated play to prevent injury and fights. Tag on the playground equipment was eliminated and only allowed on the field. There is a specific area in the field for tag. There are 3 aides at lunch recess. Grade teams are having more supervision as well during grade recess when necessary. Some kids were initially upset and met with the principal. 5th grade met with principal to address their concerns. They had a good dialog and she welcomed their input and explained the reasoning for the new rules. The new structure has improved behavior but not solved all problems. There is also a lunch bunch for those with repeated problems. It is a reward not punishment. They can earn lunch on the stage and there is a zumba activity. It's a reward and not required. Any student can earn tickets so it's a reward

## Oquirrh Elementary SCC January 10th Meeting 2017

for everyone. Shanna asked about hiring more help. Mandy said she could find more funding but we can't find enough people to fill the position She still has 2 open positions in special education that she has been trying to fill all year. Part-time work in the middle of the day in all weather is hard to fill. Stephanie advised having the aides join Paul Pedler in PE to build relationships with the kids in a positive way which could contribute to better respect and understanding during lunch recess. Mandy will look into that option. Kira asked about Playworks. Mandy advised that Leslie Gates, the recess aide ,and Paul Pedler went to the training. Jen asked if we find out what Leslie is doing right and help train others. She suggested we should really reach out to Leslie and find out how we can help additionally. We could have her teach relationship building skills. Mandy will keep the conversation going and so can continue to improve as a school. She'll take suggestions to behavior committee.

- Other Questions and Concerns  
No additional questions or concerns brought up.

### **IV. Motion to Adjourn**

Jimmy Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting  
Shanna Anderson seconded the motion  
All council members voted in favor of the motion

### **V. Next Meeting**

14 March 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