

Morningside Elementary
Community Council Minutes
September 11, 2009

Present: Joan Bramble, Michele Jones, Chelle Brain, Michael Porter, Karianne Prince, Karen Duzy, Emily Allison, Cindy McCandless

The recorder was turned on and Mrs. Prince welcomed everyone to the meeting. She recapped that last spring; she had been the Chairperson, Mrs. McCandless the Vice-Chair and Mrs. Allison, the Secretary. She asked if anyone had interest in taking over any of the positions, or if they were content to keep it the same. All were in favor of keeping the same officers.

The council viewed the "Matter of Trust" video on the School Trust Lands.

The preliminary Trustlands' budget was then discussed. Last Spring, we had anticipated receiving a significant drop in Trustland monies. We had opted to pay for CDT (Children's Dance Theatre) for three to four grades, as we couldn't continue to fund it for the whole student body. Dance is being taught to K-3 at around \$7,700. We will actually be getting \$20,090.10 from the Trustland fund. On September 15, when the enrollment numbers go, the school will most likely get another .5 FTE, which will be used to hire a 30 hour/week aide. This person would be utilized to help with the larger sized classes and the 3rd/4th split in subjects like Math, Science and Social Studies. Mrs. Bramble presented some ideas as to how the additional funds could be spent.

We reviewed the CRT scores from the last few years. She pointed out the areas which have shown improvement, and where the students needed extra help. Utilizing this information, discussion focused on the ability to utilize YPP as a benchmark for individual students and find the areas where they need assistance. The money could go to an aide to do small group interventions in math and reading. Benchmarking would take place quarterly. This aide could receive training from the Reading Specialist, whom we have one and a half hours per day, and a Math Specialist. Mrs. Brain asked about teacher collaboration time. Due to budget cuts, this has been lost. Mrs. Bramble stated that she would like to have Substitutes come in and pull teachers out over two days. This would cost about \$400.00 each time. She has funds to do once but would like to do this three times throughout the school year.

Other ideas were:

Field Trips and Library Books. The school is doing their fundraiser to assist in paying for these.

Math tutoring before school

Professional development

Smart Boards

Calculators for the 5th grade class (\$3000 – approximate cost)

Science Lit Kits (\$3000)

Aide to help with class sizes

Mrs. Allison asked if the teachers used the Math Lit Kits that had been purchased. Mr. Porter said he used them for areas that he knew they covered. Mrs. McCandless stated that she utilizes them. It was brought up that perhaps in collaboration time, the teachers could be reminded that this tool is available.

Mrs. Bramble asked that everyone think about what they think should be funded.

Mrs. Prince reminded the group about the Community Council Training coming up. The Olympus/Skyline area is at Olympus High School, Monday September 14 at 4 p.m.

Under other school business, Mrs. Duzy asked how the French Immersion program was going. Mrs. Bramble stated that it seemed to be going well. There were some bugs in getting some of the materials. It was asked if the teachers were getting enough support. Mrs. Jones noted that it seemed like Ms. Nixon had less volunteers on her PTA sign-up sheets. Mrs. McCandless stated that the first grade classes pulled together to coordinate enough chaperones for a field trip to the zoo.

Mrs. Bramble stated that she had a grant for a positive behavior support plan called UBI-ABC (Utah Behavior Initiative – Academic Behavior Coaching) Mrs. McCandless is the co-chair for this program, that will help identify behaviors expected from the students, and interventions when needed to bring someone into compliance.

Mrs. Duzy remembered when there was a gifted committee to pinpoint high achievers that weren't in the Magnet program. Mrs. Bramble affirmed that the students are identified for ability grouping and have those groups spend part of their day together, with instruction appropriate to their needs. Mrs. Duzy stated that maybe we could do some enrichment activities aimed at these children, with things like Debate done for the lower grades. Mrs. McCandless stated that at one school, they did speeches in the lower grades,

so that at 5th/6th grade the children were already used to being up and giving speeches, and took to Debate easier.

Mrs. Bramble said that it was something we could consider, with possibly a parent volunteer or teacher.

The teachers were excused after Mrs. Prince reminded everyone the next meeting will be Friday, October 9, 2009 at 1:45 p.m. in the Morningside Library.

The council then watched a power point presentation on the Granite School District Bond Election in November. This bond would provide air conditioning to the schools without air conditioning, as well and fund construction and rebuilding throughout the district.

We adjourned at 3:18 p.m.