

Morningside Elementary School
Community Council Minutes
October 10, 2008

Present: Karianne Prince, Michele Jones, Joan Bramble, Emily Allison, Cindy McCandless, Sundee Listello, Karen Duzy, Karen Morgan, Amy Oliver, Edie Church, Amy Mulcock, Leslie Lorimer, Brent Lorimer, Gina Slivers, Susan Thomas.

Excused: Micheal Porter, Chelle Brain

- I. The digital voice recorder was started up and Karianne Prince welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- II. The September minutes were motioned by Michele Jones to be approved and seconded by Karianne Prince. September's minutes were approved.
- III. We jumped to the discussion of safety concerns with the current parking and drop zone. Sundee Listello, from the Granite School District, explained that when looking at the feasibility of these plans, the Board of Education usually looks at the cost of drop zone projects that have been done in the past regarding budget. The first plan that was examined was from 2003. It had an expanded north drop zone, which would require a large retaining wall and regrading of the area. Mr. Lorimer asked whether handicap stalls could also be incorporated in this plan. If the handicap area were to be included, then it might be necessary to ramp the front of the school for entrance. The second plan would expand the current faculty parking area in front of the school into the grass area on the north side. Mrs. Lorimer stated that with this plan, the current retaining wall would need to be repaired, and possibly expanded. The community members present questioned how much extra parking is needed, for whom and what the extent of the work done would be. They also expressed a concern that the plan would again include the pushing this area all the way through to Bluebell. Mrs. Listello and Mrs. Bramble assured them that the plan is not to push through to the street. Mrs. Oliver wanted Mrs. Bramble to determine an ideal number of parking spaces and to share that information with the community members. Karianne stated that, as a community council, we are a forum for discussion and to make recommendations to the school board. The school board then would act upon those recommendations as they are able. Mr. Lorimer wants to have input when there is a proposal on

the table. Karianne stated that the agenda is on the web site. Mrs. Allison stated that she can email the community members when these issues are on the agenda. She stated that Mrs. Lorimer was included in the reminder email of the meeting today, but not that this parking/safety issue was on the agenda.

Karianne asked if we can agree that our next step as a Community Council and community, is to approach the district to have Jim Day, or an engineer to look at both plans to see if they are feasible, and to come up with a design that is reasonable, and get a cost. Mrs. Listello asked if there were a priority to the plans and Plan 1 was determined to be of a higher priority as it addressed the drop-off safety concerns. With either plan, Mrs. Lorimer felt that the state of the current retaining wall should be an issue. Mrs. Mulcock praised the children on how well they were waiting on the sidewalk areas for their rides. Mrs. Mulcock and Mrs. Slivers were both thanked for helping in the Safety Patrol, as well as all the volunteers helping with this. Mrs. Listello gave some time line information; that includes getting the design from the engineer, getting bids for cost analysis, presenting the project to the school board, getting it approved by the school board, getting the project bid out and built. Mrs. Bramble and Mrs. Listello stated that they will contact Jim Day to start the process. The community members asked to be kept informed.

- IV. The council welcomed Karen Duzy as the new parent member, who is completing Kim Cronin's term. Karen Morgan was welcomed as the PTA representative.
- V. Joan Bramble reported on the AYP scores and the U-PASS scores. Morningside passed the AYP scores but did not pass the U-PASS. Mrs. Bramble reviewed the process that is used to do the score compilations. In the AYP process, the subgroups with an N of less than 40, do not show as statistically significant and the pass rate was 71% for math and 77% language arts. In the U-PASS, many of these subgroups are counted unless the N is less than 10, with a pass rate of 80% for all subjects. Morningside's Economically Disadvantaged group did not meet proficiency or show adequate progress for the year. Mrs. Bramble was going to check into the accuracy of this. She stated that for U-PASS students are only counted in one of the sub-groups. The group then reviewed all the scores for AYP, U-PASS and the CRT

breakdown by grade level. There were many areas to celebrate, as well as areas that needed improvement.

- VI. Mrs. Bramble then reviewed with the group the previous year's SSAP. We had focused on numeracy, literacy and school environment. Our Trustland monies were spent on CDT, library books, AR tests, fieldtrips and conferences for the teachers. (i.e. Core Academy) Our QTSA funds were spent on teacher projects such as math tutoring, Utah Opera, Jr. Great Books training, Creative Pursuit, a reading specialist, the computer aide in the computer lab, Student Council and Safety Patrol. Last spring, in anticipation of supporting split classrooms, we looked to spend some of our funding on an hourly teacher to help decrease large class sizes and assist with splits. The PTA, generously agreed to fund some of these other projects, like the Safety Patrol. Mrs. Bramble agreed to mark the funds earned in school fundraisers for fieldtrips and library books.
- VII. Our discussion took us to examining this year's SSAP. We agreed that Numeracy and Literacy should still be a focus. Mrs. Bramble stated that we changed to Everyday Mathematics, as a basal text book with a strong research-base, for the entire school. With this new program there is ongoing support with trainers for the teachers. We have in place a certified second grade math teacher, and math tutoring. She felt that we were supporting our Numeracy programs well. To improve in the Language Arts area, we could utilize money from the QTSA, to hire an aide to pull out small groups to focus on needed areas. The aide could work under the K-3 Reading Specialist, with a scripted program that we could purchase that goes along with the Open Court reading. Our third area of focus was determined to be Science for grades 4-6, even though the AYP does not include this in their scoring. We discussed such interventions as having the CDT focus be science concepts, organizing the science room with a PTA chair or teacher in charge to keep it neat, organized and stocked. Mrs. Bramble stated that there is a teacher using this room for her classes, and that should help in keeping it neater than last year. Other ideas were teaming of the teachers, by grade, to focus on joint projects, looking into outreach programs like Jr. Engineering or partnering with the University of Utah, (we already have a partnership with the Nursing Program), finding area experts to facilitate science exploration or focusing field trips on the science core of the

specific grade. Mrs. McCandless stated that we should look into which areas students missed on their tests and address those. Mrs. Duzy also stated that we need to show intervention for those economically disadvantaged students, and make sure that they are getting the support that they need. Mrs. Bramble stated that the school psychologist makes sure these students have backpacks, supplies, etc. She stated that she is working with the teachers to have high student engagement. Studies show that children that have high engagement in class, even with low home support, can still show achievement. She said that she will write into the SSAP, the recognition of the need for high student engagement, and the ongoing professional development, to increase this important component and its impact on our students. The SSAP is due on October 24. Mrs. Bramble will do the rough draft, email it out to everyone for review and then finalize it and send it into the district.

- VIII. Our next meeting will be November 14, at 1:45 pm in the Morningside library. Our meeting was adjourned and the digital voice recorder turned off.