

March 5, 2009

Dear Taylorsville Elementary Faculty, Staff, Parents and Students:

On behalf of the Taylorsville Elementary community Council I wish to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the students and staff at our school. The school LAND Trust funds and the QTSA money that have been allocated to our school and are having a tremendously positive impact on the education of our students and climate at our school.

The Community Council met many times to determine the needs of our students. Our Principal and teachers on the council did a terrific job of education the parents on the council regarding the educational needs of the students, and the best path to address those needs. So with this background in place, we came up with the plan voted on it, and are implementing the plan at this time.

We are using the funds to hire reading assistant aides so those small groups of at-risk students can be helped according to their needs. In addition, training has been provided for our teachers in programs such as DIBELS, Acuity, and YPP. Significant portions of the funds were used to purchase the new Language Arts and Math programs implemented this year. We also invested in Rocket Math – a valuable math system designed to improve math fact fluency for every student first through sixth grades.

We have funded the after-school reading tutoring program again for 2008-2009 school year, and began the before school math tutoring as well. We want to see our kids excited and doing well in reading and math, and believe that these programs will help our at most at-risk students see success which improves self-esteem and teaches them that they can be successful in these subjects if they make the effort.

The Council designated funds to be used to purchase and train teachers on a new reading program. This was implemented at the beginning of the school year. Our plan was to have our teachers trained on the new math program last year and then receive training on the new Language Arts program in the fall. We did not receive the new Math texts in time for the teachers to be trained last school year, so our teachers have had to work extra hard to receive training on both the Math and Language Arts programs this past fall. They are to be commended for their efforts as it is difficult to adopt any new program, but they have successfully adopted both programs simultaneously, and our students have responded favorably. The Rocket Math program has fueled the student's interest in learning their math facts. This program has taught students that math can be fun, and that every student can be successful at math.

The TRUST funds also paid for the purchase of a Discipline Tracking Software program which is used regularly by our Principal. Staff and faculty at our school have seen a vast improvement in student compliance with school rules. This has made it easier for teachers to teach and for students to learn. The climate of our school is more positive and students are more cooperative and happy to be here. The numbers of incidents in the classroom and on the school grounds are decreasing, and students are showing respect for teachers, staff and are following school rules.

Our school is continuing with reward incentives for our students using the Tiger 200 Club, and Star Student/Teacher/Volunteer of the Month. The PTA has worked hard to provide activities and incentives to improve school spirit. All together, our efforts are having an impact and school climate is improving. Our focus has been able to shift back to rewarding positive behavior to those students who demonstrate appropriate and desirable actions instead of constantly disciplining students who misbehave. This has improved morale for our teachers, and improved learning at our school. We are seeing less bullying on the playground and in the pick-up/drop-off zones before and after school.

Thank you so much for your efforts in making this possible at our school. As a Community Council, we appreciate having funding that allows us to address the unique and specific needs of OUR students. We appreciate your efforts in maintaining this valuable source of revenue in our behalf.

Sincerely,

Alison Bateman  
Taylorsville Elementary Community Council Chair