

Oquirrh Elementary School Community Council – August 2014

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2014

Present: Jimmy Anderson, Dave Butler, Kira Hansen, Janice Johnson, Jennifer Jensen, Mike Jensen, Alisa Petersen, Mandy Thurman

Absent:

Next meeting: September 11, 2014 at 4:15 pm in Oquirrh Faculty Room

I. Call to Order

Jennifer Jensen called the meeting to order.

II. Reporting

- New Principal Mandy Thurman reported on the remaining budget amount. School Community Council Fund currently has \$8,037 left. This is funded by SCC fundraisers, like Little Caesars. This past year it was used to fund field trips for each grade, 1st grade used it for materials and a small amount was used by the science specialist for materials.
Jen Jensen reported that she spent much less than allotted for science. The weather station costs for basic set up was \$7,000 going all the way up to \$18,000. The microscope she looked into purchasing was found in school property already and she will be utilizing that this year. She is willing to work with WeatherBug or network sponsored weather programs but she needs the 4th grade teacher team to be on board since that is the grade focused on weather.
Janice reported on profits from Little Caesar's fundraiser. \$600 profit from tracks A & B, \$2,085 profit from tracks C & D. Janice recommends holding the fundraiser in March or later for all tracks to increase profits. Dave Butler offered that the PTA is doing their fundraiser in the fall. He will be working on the computers fundraiser in January. To give a break and possibly increase profits, the SCC will try Little Caesar's again in March for 3 tracks and April for B.

III. New Business

- Mandy Thurman requested that the council skip to agenda item Discussion and Possibly vote on New Procedure for Student Bus Passes because Alisa Petersen was present at the meeting specifically for that agenda item. Council agreed.
Mandy Thurman reviewed the bus lottery procedure currently in place. She informed the council she spoke with the Transportation department and they have software that can determine distance. So, all the applications for space available bus permits would be sent to Transportation who would use the software to calculate the permits based solely on distance from the school and distance to the bus stop versus distance from the school.
Jen Jensen suggested that the distance software calculations could be a way to determine who receives the permits instead of the lottery.
Jimmy Anderson asked if there is chance of someone receiving a permit and then being kicked off if a family moves into the area guaranteed busing. Mandy said that Transportation tries to leave 10 spots open for move-ins. They don't give the space available spots until 15 days after D track starts.
Ali Petersen presented the council with her concerns of safe walking for her children across Campus View Drive. Mandy Thurman presented the maps and charts for the schools safe walking plan for Ali to show her specific concerns. Ali showed the road in question. She said it is dark on the road with the change in start time to 8 am for the previous school year. People are heading to work and going too fast. There is no crosswalk. She is single mother and can't always accompany her kids and even has her father drive from Holladay when necessary to make sure they are safe. She wants the council to change the lottery to give priority busing for kids on the west-side of Campus View Drive. She wants more human judgment put back into the process since a lottery doesn't take that into account hardship and specifically the more dangerous route for her kids and those on the west-side of Campus View Drive.

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Jimmy Anderson asked about current space on the bus. Mandy Thurman said the only kids on the bus now are those in the boundary required to be bused. She has not been given the number of spots available at this time. Last year every application for busing was able to be granted without lottery. She did inform the council that the software does not take into account what may be more dangerous routes or hardships. It only factors distance. Mandy Thurman said she has been on the route and is in talks with City about a possible crosswalk for Campus View Drive. Only the City can put in crosswalks and the crossing guards are city employees. They require a study and have to find that certain numbers of children affected be met in order to warrant a crosswalk with guard versus allowing for better traffic flow. If all the children from that side are bused, the City would be very unlikely to find a crosswalk warranted, even if we can't guarantee their spots.

Jimmy Anderson suggested that we break the space available spots into 2 categories. One category would be award based solely on distance and would have the most number of spots. The second group would be awarded in the traditional lottery thereby leaving someone who is perhaps closer to the school a chance to receive a spot. Dave Butler offered that it would greatly complicate the process. He suggested if we felt the need to move away from the lottery we could either do distance or leave a few hardship spots. The Transportation department receives the applications and just awards them based on distance.

Jimmy Anderson asked if Mandy Thurman could ask Transportation if they would be willing to calculate our applications but then give them back to us to award some on lottery. She said she would talk to Transportation and see if that was even possible.

All council members agreed they did not want to be the position to try and judge hardship claims and their possible authenticity. No one wants another's problems and no one understands entirely each other's problems. There is no fair way to try to judge those type of claims.

Ali Petersen suggested that could be left up to the school Principal.

Council members all stated that would put undue burden on the Principal to judge and try to authenticate any hardship claims with all the other responsibilities her position entails.

Mike Jensen suggested that dividing the spots as Jimmy offered seemed a reasonable way to allow distance to be a primary factor while still offering the opportunity to those who have used it but may be closer to the school. He suggested maybe the spots be divided 80/20.

Jimmy suggested we hold the issue until Mandy Thurman could check with Transportation on the feasibility of the option.

Council dismissed Mike Jensen and Dave Butler who had other obligations.

- Review of Nomination forms

Mandy Thurman said there were no competing nominations for the open spots, so no election was required. Jennifer Jensen and Mike Jensen will continue on the council.

- Appoint New Member for Parent Representative to Replace Losaline Latu

Kira Hansen reported that while acting as PTA Secretary Losaline Latu contacted her by email and asked to be removed from Oquirrh's lists. She is no longer living in the boundaries. Since her spot was not up for election, the council is allowed to appoint a new parent member in her stead.

Jimmy Anderson asked if Ali Petersen would be willing to take her spot. She said she would be willing.

Jimmy Anderson motioned to appoint Alisa Petersen to Losaline's spot on the council.

Jennifer Jensen seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

- Appoint New Member for Teacher Representative

Mandy Thurman asked the faculty at a previous meeting for interest in joining the council since Dave Goodrich would not be on the council this year. She reported that Mrs. Hansen, Kindergarten and Diagnostic teacher, and Ms. Shelton, 5th grade teacher, both expressed interest.

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Jen Jensen said that Ms. Shelton would be an excellent addition as she has worked with her during science presentations and the council's work focuses mainly on the upper grades and their testing. It would be valuable to have her input.

Both Kira Hansen and Janice Johnson expressed their admiration for Mrs. Hansen. Her perspective on struggling students and how to best help lower grades would be greatly appreciated.

Jen Jensen offered that we could have 2 teacher members as long as the parent ratio was greater than the faculty ratio on the council. If we had 6 parent representatives, both teachers could participate.

Mandy Thurman will ask Alison Dorenbosch to join as additional parent member. Alison had tentatively agreed to take Losaline's spot if it became available. As the council now had 2 willing parent members, Mandy would then speak with both teachers about joining the council.

- Review and approve minutes from April 23, 2014

Jimmy Anderson motioned to approve April 23, 2014 meeting minutes.

Kira Hansen seconded the motion.

All council members voted in favor of the motion.

- Vote on Meeting Dates

Jimmy Anderson offered that we wait to vote on dates until new members of council could have an opportunity to attend and we could resolve any possible scheduling conflicts.

Jimmy Anderson asked if Mandy Thurman would gauge teacher needs and wants for the coming year that we might address as a council with SCC fund.

- Announcements

Jen Jensen reported on the growth of science excitement. She is thrilled with the response of students. She said it is wonderful to her the vocabulary of science coming from students in her lessons. The older students immediately know what a hypothesis is and continue to learn the proper vocabulary for science.

Jimmy wondered how the 6th graders who had her lessons last year would do in science classes in middle school. Jen said she would try to find out as her daughter is now enrolled in middle school. She is joining the Joel P. Jensen council and would also love to know if they were better prepared for middle school science.

Next Meeting on September 11, 2014

The council will review the space available permits and possibly vote on new procedure. Council will also address new members, training and meeting dates for the 2014-2015 school year.

IV. Motion to Adjourn

Kira Hansen motioned to adjourn the meeting

Jimmy Anderson seconded the motion

All council members voted in favor of the motion

V. Next Meeting

11 September 2014

4:15 pm Oquirrh Faculty Room

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