

# Highland Park Elementary School Community Council Meeting

Minutes Thursday, September 15, 2016

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## Present:

Christina Leavitt, Debora Cluff, Erin Agrimson, Sonal Kerr, Jenny Kearl, Benny Keele, Brianna Steadman, Taylor Wolf, Deegan Wolf, Lori Block, Heather Parry, Adam Parry, Kimberly Barnett, Jessica Balderas, Maysy Kempainen, Julie Atwood, Michael Williams

## SCC Business:

- **Welcome** – Christina Leavitt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Each member announced who they are and what grade their children attended. Reviewed SCC Operating Procedures (SCC schedule for the year, minutes, new SCC Chair for next year). Approved schedule: October 27<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup>, December 15<sup>th</sup>, January 19<sup>th</sup>, February 16<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Community Interests:

- **Outside Garbage Cans:** Benny Keele and other members discussed more garbage cans near the front and back of the school so there isn't as much garbage going in to the flowerbeds, school grounds, soccer field, particularly during lunch time. Discussed attaching them to fences, trees, etc and getting ones with lids to avoid rain and snow getting inside.
- **HB 175** – New this year, mandatory background checks for volunteers / chaperones for unsupervised interaction with students such as during field trips. The House Bill is in place due to the unfunded mandate from legislature which requires volunteers to pay out of pocket for the necessary background check and finger printing to accompany students on class field trips. The process includes submitting a form to the principal and scheduling an appointment with Jeanette Hartley at the downtown District Office. The appointment is approximately 15 minutes. The results are emailed from Jeanette to the principal approving or denying the volunteers. Many parents are frustrated with the expense and are afraid the classes will be short volunteers. As the District provides updates on the matter, Debora Cluff will include them in newsletters to parents.

## Principal Report:

- **Review Approved Plans:** SIP Land & Trust (SAGE) adjusted based on data. We reached our 2016-2017 goals in Math with 71% and our 2016-2017 goal in science at 75% and maintaining Language at 75%. The SIP proposed to adjust the math goal to 73% and the Science goal to 78%. Discussed the focuses on: effective writing skills, tardiness/attendance, Math Tier 1 instruction. Leadership team was removed from the writing section of the SIP and ST Math was removed under the math section due to the limited licenses for our school this year. To parent and faculty disappointment, ST Math is reduced this year due to not enough licenses. HP received 176 licenses this year for the 660 students. The teachers that used ST Math

consistently received some of the 176 licenses. A new Language Arts program was released (mylexia.com) with a license for every student to use the new online program. We are checking if we can get more licenses through the one of the grant programs such as Donors Choose or Chevron.

- **Review Budgets:** This was done in the Spring, and there are no revisions at this time to the current budget. New members were made aware and will be provided a copy of the budget if desired.

### **SIC Report:**

- Christina approved motion SIP & Land Trust revisions, a second was voiced by many.

### **PTA Report:**

- The need for additional buses due to HB175 was discussed. The PTA pays for some buses but not all. The PTA will provide an additional \$200 to each grade level for buses, in addition to the normal funds they provide for JA Biztown, etc. Discussed asking parents for contributions to this in future newsletters. Another option is to cut back on field trips. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade is the most concerning due to the amount of field trips they go on each year as part of their curriculum.
- This year's back to school night was discussed since the arrangement for the evening changed this year. Most feedback is that the introduction in the auditorium was not enjoyed, not fun for kids, couldn't hear, too hot in auditorium.

### **Arts Committee Report:**

- Arts Night is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup>. Discussed funding won't be pulled from Arts Night for anything other than the designated programs it assists in each year.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Christmas Program is scheduled December 22<sup>nd</sup>, discussed doing the candy sale again. Deegan Wolf said he would make the arrangements to have candy donated for this.
- A proposal was made to designate some parking stalls in the west faculty lot to the teachers whose classrooms are in the portables. Also proposed is to let parents know that this is a faculty lot only, no parents permitted to park in the west lot. Debora agreed to put this in the next newsletter.
- The current negative tone of the school was discussed and parental concerns were addressed. Some of the root causes have been HB175, the losing of ST Math, and frustrations over communication. Suggestions included: increased principal visibility, clearer format for the newsletter, and increase in communication school wide.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Taylor Wolf