

Highland Park Elementary School Community Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 19, 2017

Present:

Sonal Kerr, Edie Morgan, Jenny Kearn, Taylor Wolf, Deegan Wolf, Mercedes Barica, Erin Agrimson, Brianna Steadman, Heather Parry, Marina Coomes, Kristi Swett, Rebecca Pittam, and Debora Cluff

SCC Business:

- **Welcome** – Debora Cluff called meeting to order. Council reviewed November minutes. Concern was raised regarding accuracy of Nov minutes and they were revised accordingly. Appreciation was expressed for the revisions. Sonal Kerr motioned to approve, Edie Morgan seconded the motion, all agreed in favor.
- **Child Access Routing Plan.** We reviewed the map. Kristi shared reasoning behind reviewing map. The routes may need to be adjusted based on changes in traffic patterns. Parents are asked to provide feedback regarding crosswalk coverage, line striping, areas that may be a hazard for students, and placement of lights. Concerns were raised regarding utility trucks parking in entrance to school at transition times for students. Debora will contact Paul Schulte regarding lights and have him contact the city. Debora will follow up with Google Fiber as needed. Kristi encouraged parents to report on any areas that may need flags, or crossing guards.

Community Interests:

- **Cafeteria Food Waste:** There is a large amount of wasted fruit/food. Discussed rules regarding what can be done with uneaten food. Concern regarding younger students being able to manage whole apples and bananas. Discussed having a knife available to cut fruit, having child nutrition cut fruit prior, having a trash can specifically for fruit with the option of using it for compost or donating to zoo. Discussed whether it is a matter of educating students on importance of only taking what they will eat and health benefits of eating fruits/vegetables. An idea was shared regarding having a health chart up and kids could put a sticker on it if they drank their milk. Debora will check with Child Nutrition to find out options for discarded food and if fruit can be cut into smaller pieces.
- **Friday Schedule:** Discussed theory behind short schedule on Friday and the activities that occur on Fridays and how relevant they are. Teachers explained the afternoons are used for prep and planning. Teacher contracts do not specifically require teachers to plan onsite. Fridays are often used for assessment, assemblies, special activities, and rewards for work completion. Teachers have lunch either in the cafeteria or in their classrooms with students. Educational videos are often used during this time. Some parents indicated they liked the early out schedule as it allows them to do activities with their children.
- **Science Programs:** Highland Park participates in Hands on Science, Science Fair, and Hour of Code to bring STEM activities to students. Teachers have written grants to obtain technology and science opportunities for students. In other Arts schools they have hired science teachers to do Hands on Science activities. They have similar challenges to providing STEM opportunities. Students participate in the Math Olympiad at a few schools.

- **Scheduling of Events:** Concern was raised regarding decision process for determining dates/times of performances/events. An example was the Holiday program and change of date. Holiday programs will be scheduled as close to the holiday as possible. A suggestion was given to calendar out as early as possible (May) the traditional events and then honor those dates/times. There was a suggestion to have known events brought to SCC prior to being put on calendar and newsletter to get community input. Process for how changes will be handled need to be shared with community.
- **Calls from School:** A suggestion was given to text parents if there is a sick child so parents will be able to identify who is trying to call them. Often parents don't recognize the different school numbers and may ignore calls. There were suggestions of using the REMIND app to send out the text. We will check into viable options.

Principal Report:

- **Lockout/Lockdown Procedures:** Debora shared a handout with the procedures that will be followed for lockout/lockdown situations and drills. Teachers will be given the handout and we will review in faculty meeting. Teachers will review procedures with students prior to drill. All parents will be given the procedures and the date of the first drill.
- **Stakeholder Survey:** The window for parents to complete the Stakeholder survey is coming up soon. Parents will login to the Parent portal of Power School and complete the survey. They will not be paper/pencil this year. We will provide computers in the computer lab for parents to complete the survey during SEP conferences.

SIC Report:

- The SIC meeting was for January 9th was cancelled due to there not being any agenda items submitted and it occurring right after a two week break. SIC will be discussing the School Improvement Plan, Land Trust, and upcoming staffing at the next meeting. Faculty will be given data to determine areas of strength and needs and will identify these on charts which will then be shared with SCC for parent input. These will help drive our focus for next year. Data will also be shared with SCC to provide input for both School Improvement Plan and Land Trust Plan. Parent asked about our current Land Trust Plan and how money was being allocated. It currently pays for the computer lab person, the parent volunteer coordinator, technology, and math curriculum.

PTA Report:

- Heather Parry shared discussion items from the PTA meeting. Discussed new committee vacancies and asked that teachers submit a couple names of parents who might be willing to chair/co- chair a committee. Last chance to order yearbooks is March 31st. We will put up a banner reminder, put in newsletter, and have a list of who has ordered so far. Discussed the school shirts being offered 3 weeks prior to school ending and the first 3 weeks of school. Will have sample sizes available at Back to School night to avoid the unpredictable sizing. A suggestion was made to have the adult shirts be more generic so they can be used for multiple years. We will talk about possibly selling the adult shirts at Arts Night using the same vendor as last year. It was suggested to have the Share Your Spare drive earlier in November to allow counselor time to disperse to families earlier.

Arts Committee Report:

- Art's Night is March 17th. Most teachers have signed up for baskets. Chick-Fil-A will be providing the dinners. There is a chance they will donate this year. Classroom projects are under way. There is a need for volunteers to help run the children activities. The activities are already planned. There is also a need for volunteers to prepare the kits. One lead and 4 parents would be helpful. Debora will send out a separate email regarding how parents can help.
- Sonal asked teachers what the best form of communication was for teachers to get information. Teachers indicated paper notes in their boxes on lavender paper would be best. A parent shared concern regarding the excessive notes sent out with basket assignments and suggested sending out a general note explaining the baskets and then sending a note 2 weeks prior and then 1 week prior. Debora will include information in the newsletter regarding Arts Night.

Other:

- Kristi Swett, our board member, shared information from the meeting she attended at Nibley Park regarding the Simpson Homeless Center. She wanted us to know that it is still up in the air. The resource center will likely be a women's or family center. This will greatly impact Nibley and surrounding schools. The Nibley community is frustrated with the lack of communication and the possible impact on their school. The city did not include the district nor Nibley Park area citizens in the decision making process. The district at this point does not have information. If there are questions, she asked that they be fielded towards her. Debora will watch to see if there is an influx of special permit requests from Nibley and inform Kristi.
- The board will be having a discussion regarding open enrollment and defining open and closed.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next School Community Council meeting will be held on February 16th. The March meeting may be rescheduled due to Arts Night being on the following day.