

Centerville Junior High School Community Council

Wednesday, March 15th, 2017

Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Approval of minutes from previous CC Meeting (February) –

Jenny Pitt motion to approve February minutes. Amy McKay 2nd.

Unanimous Approval of the February minutes by the council.

3. Counselor Report (Mr. Griffiths) –

Registration for next year has been ongoing for all the grades. All registration should be done by next week after our 6th grade registration.

4. Teacher Report (JSSC)

5. Student Report (Ally Seelos SBO)-

We are holding officer meeting for students interested in being next year's officers. Spring dance will be April 14th. We have scheduled all 5 food trucks for field day. We are also planning to have a chalk fight like we did last year.

6. 2016-2017 Trust Lands Expenditure Update- (See Handout)

7. Report:

- **Digital Literacy Requirement** – (Spencer Hansen) Welcomes any additional comments, ideas, concerns from council members and parents! Please continue to communicate these! We were grateful to have several parents attend our community council today to address this issue and others associated with it. Please see these discussion comments in the Parent/Community Concerns section below.

- **General School Budget Advisement – (See Handout)**
 Paper copies have been a big additional cost but still cheaper than buying additional copies since we are only using portions of the books.
- **17-18 Policy Review**
- **School Improvement Plan Funding 17-18 Final Approval – (See Handout)** Option 1 puts more money toward hardware. Option 2 increases hours for Language Arts TA's, provides money for additional non-fiction library books and purchases VEX classroom bundles for the science classes. After our discussion about Digital Literacy's impact on students, Council Members requested that Option 3 be evaluated and presented as an option for the vote on Trust Lands funding for 17-18. Option 3 should include at least 1 preferably 2 before school class options for students + early morning Seminary. Spencer Hansen will find teachers that are willing to teach, hopefully core classes, before school. He will also get the costs for offering these classes. Option 3 will be presented along with the other options at our April meeting. Alice Roberts would also like information on what costs we can pass on to parents for these early morning class options. Lisa Robinson commented that she would prefer we spread out the funding over several area rather than all on one!
- **16-17 Trust land Budget Amendments – (See Handout)** Trust Lands carry over funds 16-17. Spencer Hansen proposed we spend this money for science class Lego Mindstorm EV3 Robotics Kits. This equipment could be used by competition teams in the future and for physics. Want to purchase the VEX kits with future funds so that teachers will have both options! Ben Horsley wants to know how this fits into our goals? Spencer Hansen says it fits into this years goals and it can be fit into next years goals as well. We have talked extensively as a council about wanting to provide robotics kits for teachers and future teams and this is a chance to do that. We can buy the kits now so that teachers can have kits to prepare lessons and can plan to use them beginning this fall. They will need time to get them ready so purchasing them now is the best option. Ben Horsley made a motion to approve that the Trust lands carry over funds be used to buy the Robotics Kits. Lisa Robinson 2nd. Council unanimously approved the motion.

- **Sage Testing Letter to Parents from Community Council (Brian Bolinder)** - Letter was passed out and reviewed by all community council members. A signature page is being prepared for all members to sign and is available at CJH Office. Letter and signatures will be sent out with weekly principal email before SAGE Testing will begin.

8. Parent/ Community Concerns

Digital Literacy Impact Discussion Notes: (This was a very long discussion with many opinions/suggestions given. I have done my best to make an accounting of the main ideas that were presented and discussed. It's not perfect but I hope everyone's point of view will be accurate. Please let me know if there are any major discrepancies! Nicki Ellis)

Brian Bolinder first gave an explanation of the issue. Digital Literacy is a new requirement for all 8th graders beginning next year. This is a new class requirement given by the state. The discussion we are having today is a discussion being had by schools across the state on how this class change will impact the students at their school. Every school has different needs/limitations so the same solutions will not work for everyone. We need to evaluate what is best for the students at our school given our building/staffing limitations. The addition of this required class reduces the number of electives all students are able to take.

Spencer Hansen has offered a summer Digital Literacy option for 36 students. This class is not currently full. The legislature has approved an opt-out option but the form has not yet been distributed. Doug Parrish is already certified to teach this class and will be able to answer questions about the course content and requirements. Mr. Hansen distributed course material information to everyone present at the meeting and will be happy to provide this for any parents. Mr. Griffiths said there will also be an online option through the district in the near future.

Anne Jeppesen (Parent) – Talked with the principal at another local Jr. High where they are moving to an AB block schedule so that students can still maintain their elective options. This does require larger class sizes. She is concerned that 9th graders are also going to have additional problems with course flexibility in the future and wants to know how we are preparing now for those challenges. We can't just wait, we need to start planning now! For Chinese 9th grade students there will only be 1 semester elective credit so that means no

release time seminary, no music, no language, etc. She is contacting the seminary about planning to provide an early morning seminary option at the CJH location. Chinese students should be able to take seminary and still be able to take the required course for graduation and for the Regents Scholarship. They already know they can't take other electives like orchestra or band, they chose Chinese over those things but they want to be able to take seminary.

Laura Klein (Parent) – Wants to emphasize that this digital literacy class problem isn't just a problem for Chinese students. It is a problem for everyone and that is why schools all around us are switching to the AB block schedule to accommodate students that are interested in band or others arts programs. We need to make some changes to save the arts at our school as well! These other schools don't even have Chinese and they are still making changes because it impacts everyone! She wants to support our new band teacher in his efforts to build a strong band program here at CJH. It will be hard for him to keep students in band if the schedules only allow them to take band half the year. She wanted to know how many students are being turned away from the summer class (none, it isn't full yet) and if there are other options since families/students are busy during the summer months (currently there will be an online option through the district)? What other options can we offer to our students to allow them to take the classes they want and still take the required classes?

Spencer Hansen – 2 Jr. High schools have moved to the AB block schedule. BJH is moving to 5 X 5. These schools are on minimum staffing. Our current max is 36 students per class. Moving to an AB schedule at our school would increase class sizes to 42 students. Our science and CTE classrooms cannot accommodate this increase in numbers. They are already at past max capacity. There are no future construction plans that would allow for this increase. Our internal classroom size configuration prohibits this option. The district can opt to staff us similar to BJH and MJH. Teachers also don't like the other options that require them to have larger class sizes and serve more students in a day. That is a lot more students to keep track of.

Jenny Pitt – People not in Chinese immersion are concerned about his issue because of music programs and other art interests. Would it affect your FTE? (Spencer Hansen responds “No”)

Anne Jeppesen – Asked if they have thought about requesting the Chinese Immersion be moved to another Jr. High (BJH?). where they can accommodate the larger class sizes and allow for more elective options through the 5 X 5 schedule since it impacts these students even more? (Spencer Hansen has not thought about that. Class size is the issue for teachers and for our building so this is a valid suggestion for those students.) Ann requested that a formal faculty vote be done about this issue to see how they really feel about the issue. The council agrees that taking a vote from teachers would be a good idea.

Mr. Griffiths – Wants to point out that in 9th grade there are lots of online options for kids to take classes to make room in their schedule for other things. It was also brought up that other classes like gym are not a 9th grade requirement it can be taken later. Computer Tech has also been removed for 9th graders. There may be a new class in the future but we don't know yet. It is best for parents and students to meet one on one with their school counselor to get advice and options that will work for them specifically. There are no across the board answers because everyone wants different things.

Ben Horsley – Schools everywhere are having these same conversations. Some schools are using Trust Lands funds to pay for early morning classes or are considering floating 8th periods which allows the class sizes to be the same. Some schools are going to the 5x5 schedule. Any class can be taught early morning!

Jenny Pitt -- Had the floating 8th schedule when she was in school and it worked well. She thinks we should look into that option.

Spencer Hansen – AB Block and the 5x5 schedules are not good options for our school due to logistical concerns. We are trying to take care of the 8th grade issues we are facing for next year now and then we will address the 9th grade issues next year. We need to look more at the 9th grade impact. We are still looking for options that will work for our school. We will explore the rotating 8th period idea. We will also look at moving a Digital Literacy course to before school, possibly with Trust Lands Funds.

Lisa Robinson – Asks if the District would foot the bill for early morning classes to help our school accommodate these extra students making our class sizes larger, since we were assigned to have Chinese Immersion? (Spencer Hansen says probably not but we can always ask.)

Shelly Dameron – We can not get any more students into the CTE classrooms! She would be willing to do a before school class to help students open spots in their schedules.

Nicki Ellis – Parents need information, in advance, about why things are required and why decisions were made. Parents were upset that they received information about this change at the last minute. Registration packets came home the night before and no details were given about the change and the impact it would have. They did not have an opportunity to ask questions/express concerns.

Ben Horsley – Suggests that our Community Council send a formal letter to the Seminary requesting an early morning seminary option at the CJH location and sharing how it could positively impact a large portion of our student body. Jenny Pitt agreed to follow up on this.

Other Topics for Discussion:

Spencer Hansen asked about the councils feelings to reduce our schools academic standard for sports participation to align with the lower district standards. We will have this discussion in the April meeting!

Next Meeting... April 19th 2017