

Orchard Elementary Community Council February 26, 2018 Minutes

Present:

Mike Volmar, Linda Greenwood, Cheri Arrosmith, Ann Clark, Maria Duggar, Camie Nielson, Virginia Peery, Carolyn Wiberg, Alina Ballard

Approved minutes from Jan 22nd Meeting

Student Safety @ Orchard:

Camie Nielson attended a district meeting with Gary Payne discussing ways to make the school safer; Vestibule requiring identification or buzzing in by office being considered. Timeline for changes: summer or fall. Cameras, emergency procedures are in place already. Also discussed the school's drop off/pickup area being redesigned.

Discussed the need for transparency, knowing who is in the school. Also educating parents on any changes that do occur. Discussed school disasters stem from children that are bullied, Orchard does a good job of preventing/stopping bullying. Lockdown drill scheduled in near future.

Goals for 2017-2018 Year:

Language Arts aides are still in place. Math Aides have been increased to 20 minutes.

Mrs. LeBaron is putting together STEM carts to increase ease of use for teachers.

Programming is being taught with keyboarding at Orchard currently.

Discussed whether the mindfulness training integrated has been effective for kids; teachers say it has been somewhat effective.

Attendance initiative is being taken on by the Attendance Committee now.

PLTW is continuing into next year; part of the 3 year pilot program. We will have to pay for part.

Alina Ballard informed us SDJH's Community Council is discussing how to continue STEM/programming. They did not approve moving to a 10-class schedule, which would have allowed for more classes related to STEM and PLTW. Pros and cons of the 10-class schedule were discussed; it is designed with flexibility to meet the needs of every student.

Camie Nielson spoke about hearing about a new bill to fund school counselors. Will send to committee. Our school counselor is currently working with groups that are brought to him. Parents were interested in the counselor having a more proactive role in the school, speaking/teaching with all students.

Parents would like to have a "Health" focus in the School Plan next year. Discussed ideas such as: nutrition education, yoga, mental health, character education. Committee members to gather more ideas for next meeting.

Learning First Planning Day March 27th 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Camie Nielson and Alina Ballard volunteered to attend.

