

MINUTES

Oak Hills Elementary School-CC Council Minutes-April 2018

Date | time Thursday, April 12, 6pm | *Meeting called to order by* Terry Miller

In Attendance

Council Members: Terry Miller, Jeremy Leger, Ben Pykles, Victoria Stats, Matt Bird, Martha Anderson, Shelli Arthur, Michelle Porter, Ruthanne Keller, Rebecca Gallacher

Others in attendance: Tiffany Best, Savannah Jensen, Audri Ence, Terra Lechtenberg, Stacy Stuart, Allison Higgs, Jerilee Jones, Michelle Miller, Jennifer Godfrey

Meeting Topics:

A. School Improvement Plan 2018-2019

Notes: Furnished by Principal Ruthanne Keller:

People asked questions about the Trustland funds and how they are being allocated. Differences between behavior aide and academic aide. We discussed the voting process and opened the floor for discussion:

Jen Godfrey spoke about the petition and would like to have three teachers, worried about the increased class sizes and how it will affect her daughter

Terry stated that the student numbers have gone down and there will be lower class sizes in fourth grade

Audri Ence spoke about having a child in that grade level and it has been awesome and sees no need for an aide – support the teachers – give kids a chance, they are maturing, and they respond in art class and are respectful – allow the teachers to teach and revisit this next year if there is a problem.

Jen- Put a plan in place now, echoed by Michelle Porter

Tiffany Best – in the school two or three times a month – said kids are not good for Mr. Cassler who must redirect them

Audri – this is true for all her kids – she feels comfortable in the classes when she teaches art, even alone – teachers know how to teach- having a plan in place is fine

Allison Higgs – when a new person is in the classroom, there is redirection – in every class she has she redirects kids

Tiffany – if kids can't focus, they need help

Allison - what aides are you talking about?

Matt Bird – recapped last time's meeting notes/minutes and said there was a consensus that we would have aides in fourth grade

Ruthanne Keller – said she would look at the possibility in the last meeting, but did not say that was going to happen

Vicky Stats – took responsibility for bringing up the aide idea since they would not have enough students for three teachers in fourth grade. She doesn't want to get to the fall and have a lot of problems

Terra Lechtenberg – asked teachers when they can tell what kind of year they are going to have – they said it takes about a month and commented on how much thought goes into putting the class lists together, they talk across grade levels to put the lists together. Jerilee Jones and Michelle Miller are not worried about next year's students. They don't want kids hurting each other as Mrs. Best described earlier in the meeting before she left.

Jeremy Leger – sees that people really care about these kids. If \$5,000 was taken out of the budget, where would it come from and what is the benefit of it? He's hearing the teachers aren't worried about it.

Michelle Porter – should have a plan if things don't go well so that it feels like we have a safety net

Stacy Stuart – there could be problems in every grade level so shouldn't be grade level specific. The year these kids went to second grade, the sixth-grade teachers sacrificed and had a big class so there could be three teachers in second grade instead of in sixth, and she agrees with Mrs. Ence that we should give them a chance.

Terra – parents give time to sit with kids in need if they are needed next year and she recognizes that some kids need more help – teachers utilize the parents we have an amazing PTA and that makes our school great.

Jerilee – so happy to be at this school, gets back ten times what she needs

Matt – talks about the School Improvement Plan- wonders if percentage gains in the goals are high enough, does it stretch far enough. Teachers explain that the high percentages make it harder to show growth, so the goals are fine as they are

Ruthanne – talked about the plan we already have in place – teachers see a need or weakness in a student, talk with peers in PLCs, put interventions in place, take data, if student does not improve, goes to Local Case Management Team for more ideas and interventions which are put into place, if still no growth, can be referred for special ed. testing or to the District Case Management Team. District can send support personnel if needed. Mrs. Rogers is another support. She works hard with kids – counsels, runs friendship groups, gives lessons, etc.

Savannah Jensen – utilize the counselor, she's great, get rid of stigmas

Plan will be for all grade levels – not just 4th, use the six academic aides where the needs are greatest

Ben Pykles talked about the budget and how the overage will be spent (on iPads to use in Project Lead the Way)

Savannah – little ears hear every phone call, every conversation that says the kids are hard. We need to stop bringing up first grade and not expect them to be bad.

Stacy – we need to celebrate them – in first grade the teachers talked about how much they loved the kids

Savannah – these kids have potential, give them positive reinforcement, not negative

The parents have been heard and school personnel are grateful for and share your concerns. This is the plan for our school:

1. Educators are very confident they can handle student issues that may arise.
2. The extra money from the budget will be used for iPads that will benefit students in the entire school
3. A behavioral aide has legal limitations and the \$5,000 allowed by law will not pay for a whole year of duty.
4. Six academic aides will rotate throughout the whole school helping where needed. Several faculty members have already agreed to allow them to have a greater presence in any of the struggling classes/grades.
5. District support will be utilized if needed and have already been notified by the principal of the potential need, so they can act quickly if necessary.

Notes: Furnished by Victoria States:

1) The Community Council will revisit the plan and assess how the 4th graders are doing in the fall about 1 month into the school year? This time frame is based on the suggestions of the Teachers present in the meeting as they mentioned it takes about a month to assess how their student classes are going. At that time if additional help is needed Ruthanne talked to the District so that help will be readily available.

2) The Plan now states "Academic" Aides instead of "Math" Aides to give flexibility for them to be used where needed in any class that shows the need.

3) Due to the laws that regulate the School Trust Funds it was found that the \$5,000 would be the maximum available for a "Behavior Aid" whereas by changing the plan to state "Academic Aid" more funds can be allowed and even made available through the District's help. This way the needs will be better funded and filled. Trust Funds must be used in a way that benefits the school as a whole and not just one grade or group of students.

4) Assistance from the District is about a 3-week process. A general poll by the teacher's and Ruthanne informed us that the shortest time to get assistance was the next day and the longest was over the span of about 2 years but this was an extreme example and due to a parent not coming in to sign paperwork to move things forward. Michelle Porter and Jeremy Leger asked if there was any way to give the District a heads up about the possible concerns and Ruthanne graciously agreed to call them so they will be able to assist our needs faster in the Fall if any occur.

5) Victoria was asked if she would continue serving on the Community Council to which she stated she had planned on it since she had been voted in as the Vice Chair by the Council this year. At this time she mentioned that she had brought names to nominate for opening positions if there are any.

6) There was discussion on whether the Community Council had voted last meeting to use the excess Trust Land Funds of \$14,000 to go towards paying for the Aid next year for the 4th Grade. Victoria mentioned again that it wasn't by a vote of hands but by Consensual agreement. At this time Rebecca Gallacher mentioned that she remembered that along with Ben Pykles & Matt Bird both verbally agreeing that this occurred. Additional Council members remembered that this was in deed the case. After Jen Godfrey talked about her concerns then Michelle Porter verbalized that there was a valid concern. Upon further discussing the Trust Funds, had been allocated by Ruthanne to pay for the Teacher iPad(s) next year so they were not available as initially seen by the Council. The Council did not know that in the previous meeting when Ben Pykles worked out the overage numbers. A good discussion occurred to help the Teachers and Parents present understand that this wasn't taken lightly and that the Council isn't trying to deprive Teachers of iPad(s) or Parents of additional teachers but to help ensure the Funds are used appropriately and legally correct. Terry and Ruthanne were able to help everyone understand that not all of these funds could even be used for that one area (refer back to #3) and that the Community Council does not approve the written plan but that there is a Local School Board who does that.

7) Jeremy Leger and Ruthanne sat down at the end of the meeting and they are currently working up an email to be sent out to the 37 parents of the 4th Graders of 2018-2019 who signed the Petition for the additional teacher last fall. This will recap what is in place along with confirm the meeting notes that there really is a plan moving forward.

8) It is important to note that Terry Miller gave this final Trust Fund Vote tally at the beginning of the meeting (Shelli Arthur and Ben Pykles assisted in the total count of votes for verification):

- Option A: "Change the plan now to include a behavior aide in fourth grade." - 5 Votes
- Option B: "Leave the plan as it is written right now." - 7 Votes
- Option C: "Leave the plan as is and in September assess the situation with the fourth grade students. If there is a need to hire a behavior aide, we can reallocate up to \$5,000 of Trustland funds by law to hire a person for that job. At that time, we would write an amendment to the plan to specify a goal and reallocation of funds." - 4 Votes

B. CC Meeting Schedule for 2018-2019 School Year

2018-2019 Meeting Schedule-Suggested Meeting 2nd Thursday:

Second Thursday of the month (in most cases) at 6 p.m.:

- September 13th
- October 11th
- November 8th – parent conferences that night. We could have a meeting on the first Thursday which is the 1st or the third which is the 15th or cancel for Nov.
- December 13th – but we usually don't meet in Dec.
- January 10th
- February 14th – Valentine's Day, we could meet on the 7th or 21st this month
- March 14th
- April 11th
- May 9th – we usually don't meet in May

C. Elections for 2018-2019

Elections for parent positions on the CC Council will be held at the beginning of the 2018-2019 School Year, unless, the council decides otherwise.

This will be probably be our final meeting for the school year. Meetings will be resume monthly in September 2018.