

# MINUTES

## Oak Hills Elementary School CC- January 2017

Thursday, January 5, 2017-6PM

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### In Attendance

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Alicia Mobley  
Terry Miller  
Misty Mayfield  
Shellie Neilson  
Jeremy Leger  
Marv Cassler  
Ruthanne Keller  
Elissa Smith

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### Agenda Items

#### Gala Basket-Principal Keller

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It's that time again, the Davis Foundation asks our school to prepare a Gala Basket. Every year the Davis Foundation holds a gala that raises money for schools in Davis School District. Each school donates a basket that is auctioned off that evening. The basket items donated from the community and teachers netted our school a reward of \$500 in September because it earned the Foundation so much money. This year I'm again reaching out to our school community for donations for our basket. During three of the four years, I have been here, the PTA has given Oak Hills \$5,000 which the Foundation has matched in the form of grants. With this money, we have been able to purchase audio enhancement systems for each teacher during the first year, iPads the second, and last year, projectors for each classroom. Additionally, three teachers have applied for and received Cash for Classroom grants of approximately \$500 each. As you can see, the Foundation has been very good to our school.

This year, it was suggested that the theme for our basket be Family Fun. We will start collecting donations starting now and through Feb. Jeremy Leger suggested that he can purchase condominium vouchers through his company for \$200 that work at condominium complexes around the world if money is donated. Misty Mayfield wondered if we could utilize Sign-Up Genius app again to have people sign up for different donations for the basket in an online environment. We will also mention the Gala Basket in the upcoming January 2017 School Newsletter to start raising awareness and ask for donations.

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### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Feedback and Support Needs

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This information was emailed to everyone in December because we didn't hold a CC Meeting in December due to scheduling craziness. Principal Keller has gone to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and asked them for feedback and talked to them about parent concerns regarding homework. This is some of the information she provided to us as feedback:

- *I spoke with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers about what they need to help them with their large class sizes. They said that they could use:*
  - *Science supplies and guest speakers who know about the standards they teach*
  - *An additional set of the National Geographic books they use for social studies and reading*
  - *More money for an additional laptop cart*
  - *They feel they have good parent volunteer help for reading. Natalie Adams, our English Language Arts Coordinator, has spoken with both teachers and she will be providing advice and guidance with reading instructional strategies.*
  - *They love the aide help they were given by the District.*

Additionally, they are both using a supplemental math program (iReady) provided by a grant from the State that students can access from home. Mrs. Harrison just received the licenses for the program and Mrs. Streuper has had them since the beginning of the school year. They also require home reading and finishing incomplete classwork. There will be times during the year that they will require some work from home depending on the standards they're covering in class. They are not anxious to require extra math homework that students may not fully understand as it may cause stress at home. The math is taught differently than in the past and requires students to develop a deeper understanding of math concepts. They would like students to complete the work in school so they can help them with the assignments. They do not see the benefit in assigning homework packets for the sake of homework, which then equates to busy work. Also, homework cannot count towards a grade because there is no way to determine if it truly shows what the student knows. They both really appreciate the volunteer help they've had so far and they love their students. If parents would like to volunteer in either class, please contact them.

I know that some expressed concern over the sixth grade teachers' lack of assigning homework and how that could impact your students in junior high. I have found articles on homework and I have a book any of you can borrow if you'd like. It's called *Rethinking Homework* by Cathy Vatterott. I have my own opinions on homework that I'm happy to share if you're interested. There are far too many articles on the subject to include them all, but these will give you a basis to form your own opinions and you may want to do your own search to see what else is on the web on this subject.

**Homework Articles:**

**Special Topic / The Case For and Against Homework**

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar07/vol64/num06/The-Case-For-and-Against-Homework.aspx>

**Student Homework: More or Less?**

<http://www.eduguide.org/article/student-homework-more-or-less>

**Homework or No Homework**

<http://dataworks-ed.com/homework-or-no-homework/>

**The Homework Debate**

[http://www.education.com/magazine/article/The\\_Homework\\_Debate/](http://www.education.com/magazine/article/The_Homework_Debate/)

**The end of homework? Why some schools are banning homework**

<http://www.today.com/parents/schools-try-no-homework-policies-amid-complaints-about-overload-1D80128324>

**Homework: New Research Suggests It May be an Unnecessary Evil**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alfie-kohn/homework-research\\_b\\_2184918.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alfie-kohn/homework-research_b_2184918.html)

Additionally, teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is getting 2 hours of aide time per day each week to further assist them. The teachers are greatly appreciative of these aides.

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## New School Entrance

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This was also recently emailed out to everyone, but the school district has come back again with yet another plan for our secure school entrance. The new plan is not as secure as the original. Please see the following information that was emailed to all CC Council Members on 12/16/16.

*I wanted to update you on the secure vestibule and get your thoughts on what is being proposed now... We were told that we were getting an office remodel that would force people to come through the office to get into the school. They would check in and get a badge and be on their way to doing what they came to the school to do. In the new proposal (which I've been told we will most likely be getting), the front door will be locked and there will be a buzz in system installed with a camera. Our office would remain the same as it is right now. Once a person is buzzed in, they are free to go down the hall, bypassing the office as they do now. This feels like an unfriendly system and a lot more work for Laura. (I'm sure you can't tell which system I like best.)*

Principal Keller has been invited to a meeting on January 13th to discuss the second system. **This meeting is this coming Friday.**

As a Community Council, we have been discussing this topic for over 18 months. School District Personnel had a meeting with our council this past fall and brought forward the first plan which had passed the muster of our Principal, School Secretary, and other support staff. Everyone at the school felt positive about this plan. However, since that time, they have come up with this second plan

that is more cost effective; however, less secure, much more time consuming to monitor, and less friendly to the many parent volunteers that come into our school every day.

***The Community Council is asking all parent members and other interested parents of the school to email Gary Payne about this topic and in a professional and friendly manner make your voice be heard regarding this topic. Gary's email address is: Gary Payne (Facilities Administrator) gpayne@dsdmail.net.***

***Please take note, this request is being made by parent members of the Community Council and is not being made by Principal Keller. Please don't tell the district that Principal Keller asked us to do this. She did not.***

In addition, the office staff is going to keep track of how many visitors and volunteers are coming in and out of the office each day for three days of the following week, so we can provide the school district with the quantitative data regarding the difficulty of their new plan.

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## Next Meeting

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2/9/2017 6:00 PM, Schools Conference Room

Our meeting is being moved back a week due to SEPs the week before.