

January 9, 2018 Odyssey Community Council Meeting

Present: Eric Jones, Shauna Smith, Lola Plumb, Virginia Allred, Krysta Hamilton, Lisa Fausett

Notes taken by Lisa Fausett:

As a council, we have decided to focus our attention and funds on math and science. I reached out to several principals of schools with high math and science sage test scores. I shared their responses with the group. The responses ranged from strong teachers in the area, utilizing Tyson Grover (the district science guy), giving teachers time to work as a team to develop curriculum, and the GoMath program. Community Council members discussed the frustration with STMath with regards to it not being individualized learning. Kids all seem to be working on the same thing with many students getting bored with the repetition. Rachel Wright pointed out that repetition in learning is very valuable. So maybe there is a middle point with some repetition but students being able to progress to new challenges. Krysta is going to ask the STMath representative about this.

Kathy Tonge and Rachel Wright (4th grade Odyssey teachers) attended and shared their new math program, blended learning. It is an individualized learning math program. They shadowed another teacher to learn about it and are beginning to implement it in their classes. They expressed the need to have some TA's in the class during this time to help facilitate the progress of the kids. Parent volunteers may not be the best choice for this program because of the training involved and daily needs.

The three teachers expressed how much the reading TA's were helping with fluency in their classes. We don't have scores yet to verify the effectiveness of this, but they all felt that it was very effective.

It seems like math is pretty well covered but there didn't seem to be a lot of current programs for improving our science scores. The teachers would love some additional funds for the materials needed in science. I had heard from someone prior (not sure who?) that they knew of a school that had a full-time science guy. This person did not have class he was responsible for, but instead, worked with the teachers on their curriculum, pulled students out who needed some extra help, and worked with any other science related needs. Currently, Odyssey has a part time ELA coordinator that is similar to this. Also, someone mentioned a school that had a before school program where students and dads would come early and work with the students on science related things.

I am going to call Tyson Grover (district science guy) to get some ideas also.

I think for our February 13th meeting, we should figure out how much we are going to spend on current programs and how much we are going to use to try something new. For the current plan year, we are spending \$37K out of our \$60K on reading TAs and americorp and \$14K on STMath. I believe Julie thought that STMath would be around \$5K for next year. The teachers were not sure how many teachers would be utilizing the new blended learning program for next year so we don't know how many TA hours would be needed. Also, more headphones would need to be purchased for this program.