

# West Point Elementary School

## Community Council Minutes

*Tuesday, January 23, 2018*

Cassey Stanger called the meeting to order. The minutes from the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Cassey Stanger made a motion to approve the minutes, Rise Timpke 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Clark motioned to allow a parent visitor to present an issue to the council at the beginning of the meeting so that she wouldn't have to wait until the end to present her thoughts. Mrs. Caruso approached the council about the current city proposal about the splash pad that is planned to be installed behind the school. She explained that her home backs up to the property where the splash pad is planned. She and several of her neighbors have shared their concerns about having a splash pad that close to their homes. They are worried about the traffic, the noise, the proximity (or lack thereof) of the playground to the splash pad, and privacy concerns. She said that she has tried to find out what the city planned and she went to the city council, where the splash pad plan was approved, and was allowed to speak to the council regarding her concerns. She has also approached Kyle Laws about concerns from neighbors. She is concerned that the splash pad will be close to both neighboring homes and the curb/sidewalk from the parking lot. Another of her concerns is that there is no access to the proposed splash pad from Loy Blake Park, except from the streets. Parking is another issue to the neighbors. She said the neighbors fought against the parking lot that was built to the north of the school, because the access to it could only travel through the two neighborhood streets. She suggested to the city to move the splash pad to Loy Blake Park in the northwest corner that is currently only grass. This way parents will have more options for their children, the bathrooms will be closer, and parents will have an easier ability to watch their children among the different amenities the park offers. She believes families are concerned about wanting to be at different places at the same time. She said West Point City says that they need to utilize the space and that it is part of the Loy Blake expansion. The neighbors feel that they were not included in the planning for the use of the property. She feels the city wants to have it completed by the 4th of July celebration. The plumbing is stubbed in, but if there is enough community input, they could look at moving it. She proposed the city put in a bowery to rent out that wouldn't be used as often. She has a request for the community council and parents to give their feedback to the West Point city council. The council members were able to ask Mrs. Caruso questions to receive clarification. Mrs. Caruso was thanked for her input and excused from the meeting.

Mr. Clark began to give an update on the West Point City park expansion to the north of the school. He excused Kyle Laws, who was travelling back from Salt Lake, and explained that

Mr. Laws would join us before the end of the meeting. Mr. Clark explained that the mow strip is \$2,200 and is being installed right now along with the six foot fence. He proposed that the community council write a letter to the school district to split the cost of the fence and mow strip since it was installed at our request. The total cost is about \$9,500.

Mr. Clark would like to build/install a Utah model/Utah interpretive trail in the North West corner of the school's lot. The council members talked about using more permanent structures (rather than bark) to alleviate upkeep needs. The teachers on the council talked about how it would be great to install plants that grow in the respective areas of the state. Mr. Clark said they would put pathways along the major roadways in the state, so the students can see the orientation of our state. It will be called an Outdoor classroom. Mrs. Porter has helped develop other projects like this one, so she will help with the planning of this. The district has some dirt we can use and west point city will leave some dirt behind after the construction of the splash pad and soccer field.

Mr. Clark updated the council regarding building and facility updates discussed at the prior meeting. Four of the five water bottle fillers have been installed, and the students and teachers LOVE them. The last one (by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms) needs some tile work around it in order to update it. It may take a year before the last one is installed. Mr. Clark reported that we really lucked out getting the other four installed this quickly. He also shared that the new digital marquee has been installed and that the school is waiting for the software used to program it. He has requested entry rugs to be placed at all the entries of the school and the portables.

Mr. Clark reported that a young male student told his mother that there were no dividers between the boy's restroom urinals. The mother shared this request with Mr. Clark, and he has approached the school district regarding their installation. They should have been installed when West Point Elementary was added on to several years ago, but they weren't. The district will be installing them in the rest of the boys' bathrooms.

Mr. Clark asked the council if there were any school facility improvements that the council would recommend. Ms. Ricks requested synchronized clocks for all the classrooms. This would alleviate the need to change clocks due to daylight savings time, and would help teachers stay on schedule. Mr. Clark will investigate prices on digital and atomic clocks. It was also recommended to tint the top of the windows on the south side of the main hallway. During certain times of day, the sun is blinding coming through the top windows. Mr. Clark will check with the district on tinting/frosting the windows to still allow light, but alleviate the concern. The SEM teacher has notified Mr. Clark that the noise from the hall can be distracting to the SEM students. It was suggested that she put up yellow plastic signs that had a sign requesting students be quiet as they passed her classroom. Mr. Clark will talk to the SEM teacher about getting the signs. She would need to put the signs out and take them down each day, but the council hopes that a physical reminder to be quiet

will help the situation. It was requested that the school look into the Playworks program for structured recess. Mr. Clark will check to see if this can be funded through trust land funds. It was also discussed that we could imitate the program without the high cost. This program teaches self-esteem, social skills, problem solving, and game plans. Mrs. Timpke shared that she has been at schools that have used the Playworks program. They have taught students how to run the games, giving the students more ownership in the program.

Mr. Laws joined the meeting and gave further clarification on the city's plans for the Loy Blake Park expansion. He also shared the timeline the city hopes to stick to in order to complete the expansions. He explained that West point will still build a restroom even if they choose to move the splash pad so that soccer patrons can use it. The council asked him questions about possible other access to the proposed splash pad (a road connecting to 4000 West). He explained that there is currently no plan in place to connect the road behind the school to 4000 west, but confirmed that the current owner has talked about that possibility. After the council had a chance to ask questions and receive clarification, Mr. Laws was excused from the meeting.

The council discussed upcoming school events. While discussing ILP's, the council came up with a few suggestions for Mr. Clark to pass on to teachers and the district. It was requested that the district stop changing the name and acronym for Parent Teacher Conferences. Parents are confused, and even teachers have a hard time remembering what they keep changing to. Many of the teachers are doing student led conferences, but the students aren't being prepared well enough to present the information to the parents. Since it is a short amount of time, this makes it hard for parents to get the information they need from the teacher. Parents do not like the condensed ILP schedule of 15 minutes and only 2 days of conferences. When the teachers were asked their opinion, they also shared that they didn't like the shortened schedule. It was discussed that one of the purposes of a parent/teacher conference is to build up the self-esteem and praise the student. That is hard to do along with everything else in 15 minutes. The teachers reported that it is frustrating to get behind in the schedule because there aren't any breaks to allow themselves to catch up. They also reported that certain students need double blocks of time in order to discuss the student's needs. Also, if parents forget, there are not enough time slots to reschedule, and the teacher then either reschedules for a different day (not during ILP's) or does a telephone conference with the parent.

The PTA is sponsoring Family Reading Night for the upcoming Book Fair on Tuesday, January 30th. The PTA is arranging for dinner (pizza, soda and a cookie) for families to purchase. All proceeds from dinner will be used to purchase books for the school. Mr. Clark has requested to have guest readers during dinner. Cassey Stanger will create a sign-up genius to organize volunteer readers. Mr. Clark proposed adding a Book Exchange for students to swap books. The council was concerned about books from the book fair

getting mixed up with book swap books. It was decided that the book swap books will have a mark through their UPC's in order to distinguish the books.

Looking ahead to Discovery Night on March 8<sup>th</sup> (time TBD), Mr. Clark purchased boxes of fossils for students to investigate. There are some that they can chisel and crack to find fossils, or there are some that are already showing that the students can look at. This discovery process will be handled by the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team and it will be a great addition to Discovery Night.

The council quickly reviewed the trust lands budget. We have a budget of \$75,500 for the next school year from trust lands funds. Mr. Clark asked the council members what information the council would like to have before we meet again to formulate the budget for the next year. It was requested that the teachers submit requests for what they think is most beneficial. Mr. Clark will gather testing data before the next meeting. During the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the council will create a rough draft of the budget. There is a SIP/Trust Land planning meeting at the district. The principal and 2-4 council members need to attend to put the budget together. Cassey Stanger, Becky Merrick, Heather Butler, Becky Jackson, and CodyAnn Ricks volunteered to attend. The parents on the council shared that they can't be there by 8:00, but will come as soon as their kids get off to school. Mr. Clark proposed that the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting be moved to April 10<sup>th</sup> in order to have the plan ready to submit by April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Clark reported that the Wildcat Olympics will be held during last recess. A new TA will be running the Olympics. He asked the council if parent volunteers would be willing to teach games during recess. Mr. Clark will check on prices of life size checkers and chess pieces to have available to play during recess.

Becky Merrick moved to adjourn at 6:15. The next meeting will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:45.