

West Point Elementary School

Community Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Mr. Clark welcomed the council and introduced Mrs. Garner as a new member of the council.

The minutes from the September 19th meeting were read and approved. Rise Timpke moved to approve the minutes, with Cassey Stanger seconding the motion.

Mr. Clark nominated Cassey Stanger to Chair the council, and Becky Merrick was chosen to be Vice-Chair/Secretary. CodyAnn Ricks seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Clark updated the council on the digital marquee and the installation of water bottle fillers. He shared that the water bottle fillers will be installed in January, and that the digital marquee is in the process of being scheduled. These projects will be paid for using funds from last year's school fundraiser.

He also reported that the state has asked for all zip lines to be removed from the playground in order to avoid head injuries. We need to fund/replace the zip lines with another playground toy. Mr. Clark has received bids for a set of monkey bars, and is looking at different playground toy configurations to see what would best suit the needs/wants of our students. Cassey Stanger asked if we could replace the blue chips with something else that doesn't stain clothes. Mr. Clark said that he would get bids on Astroturf grass or the rubber tiles to replace the ground covering under the big toy. Mrs. Timpke said that one downside to the tiles is that they get slippery when wet. Mr. Clark showed some images of different replacement pieces. Prices ranged from \$3,500 to \$10,000 depending upon size. This price does not include installation. Building funds and/or next year's fundraiser proceeds will be used to purchase and install the new structures. The zip lines need to be replaced by the end of the school year.

Mr. Clark shared that the school has applied for a \$10,000 grant. This would allow the school to get technology in the hands of more students. This would provide an iPad lab for kindergarten and 2nd grade. Another grant is being written for headphones and another iPad lab. The 4th grade is also writing a grant for technology. Cassey Stanger mentioned that there are headphones available for purchase through the Scholastic catalog. Because of the super successful book fair, the PTA could help pay for a portion of them. Ms. Ricks suggested that we have one set of earphones per child in order to hold the students accountable for their upkeep. The younger grades need microphones in their earphones,

but Mrs. Timpke said that the 6th grade doesn't use the microphones. Mr. Clark is going to check with 5th grade teachers to see if they also need microphones. The 6th grade could give their earphones to the younger grades if they could get cheaper earbud replacements. Mrs. Timpke and Ms. Ricks will check on prices for new earbuds.

The meeting was opened for input on current ideas, questions, needs, and/or concerns from Council and/or Community. Ms. Ricks shared that the parents that are coming to pick up the preschoolers are lingering on the playground which causes concern for teachers and recess aides. Possible solutions could include asking the midday preschool pickup to meet with the parents in the south parking lot. Another option could be to add fencing on the west side of the school. Another option was to create a preschool waiting area, by marking a specific area for preschool parents to stand in while waiting for their child. One additional option would be to provide pink pick up tags that the adult must have on their person in order to pick up preschool student. This would allow other teachers and aides to quickly identify that the adult is waiting for a preschooler and is not a cause for concern. Mr. Clark will discuss these options with the Preschool teacher and staff in order to provide a safe environment for all students, employees and parents. We need to ensure that we state expectations to the parents, so they understand why they are being asked to not linger on the playground.

Another problem that was presented is that the bike rack area seems to be a big mess of bikes and scooters, which are not all contained in the provided area. This makes it unsafe for kids and teachers as the teacher parking lot is past the bike area. It was suggested to paint lines or a box around the bike rack area in order to give the kids a visual reminder of where they need to stay in order to keep safe. Mr. Clark has asked for a cement pad to be poured at the end of the playground. When this cement pad is completed, 2 or 3 of the bike racks will be moved out there in order to alleviate the crowding at the current bike rack location.

There is a growth concern at our school regarding the upward pattern of student enrollment. We will need another portable in order to handle this growth. Mr. Clark would like to keep music and art in their own portable. He has requested another portable to be installed.

Mr. Clark discussed the need for 10-15 more parent/community volunteers for Star Reading program. STAR reading is for all grades; grades 1-3 have a different program than grades 4-6. Volunteers will tutor 2 kids for 15 minutes each, twice a week. They will work on vocabulary by targeting kids that are a little low in vocab, fluency, sight words, and even letters and sounds for the youngest students. This program works in conjunction with University of Utah reading program. This program also helps with comprehension, too. Mr. Clark would like to reach out to local religious congregations to reach more volunteers.

Mr. Clark recently attended a large school meeting. He reported to the council that we are on the radar for year round school. It is projected to have a new school by Cranefield within the next few years. There will be an elementary, jr. high and high school, but location will be determined by growth patterns. We currently have about 885 students.

The council watched two trust land videos. They explained what the community council is responsible for, and where the trust land funds come from and how they are divided among all of the Utah schools.

It was reported to the council that by January we will have data from teachers to help determine and develop a plan to create a projected budget. West Point spent \$28K on TAs this year. The council will work on the plan through March and April in order to have the plan submitted by May. The current year's plan works on comprehension/reading and also mathematics, but it also provides for some staff development for summer courses to work on interventions. This money cannot be used for building or structures, but it can be used for incentives or small group helps.

Mr. Clark gave an update on the Student Wellness Plan. West Point has done 5 fire drills. They have done one lockdown drill, and will do a lockout drill in January. They will do a second lockdown drill sometime in the spring. Evacuation drills are practiced every other year. It was brought up that it would be good to discuss different evacuation locations in order to accommodate different weather.

The meeting was opened up for discussion. There were no more items to discuss. Cassey Stanger moved to adjourn at 5:13. The next meeting will be Jan 23 at 3:45.