

West Point Elementary Community Council Minutes
November 15, 2016 3:45

In attendance: Becky Merrick, Cassey Stanger, Heather Butler, Catherine Carlson, Rise Timpke, Cody Ann Ricks, Brittney Bateman, and Loren Clark

The meeting was called to order and a motion made to approve the appointment of April Cooper to the council as a parent volunteer. Another motion was put forward to approve Cassey Stanger as the council vice chair. Both votes were unanimous in the affirmative.

Mr. Clark reported on the installation of the semi-permanent soccer goals. They are going up now. Regarding the SIP plan in place this year, data from end of year testing shows that our students improved greatly in reading, an increase of 10% proficiency, which is double the 5% goal set. We also met the math goal of 5% increase in proficient students. Attendance continues to be a problem however and Mr. Clark is motivated to try and be proactive in this area. Last year the school year finished with 46 students who were chronically absent, meaning they had more than 18 absences. In his meeting with the Joint Staff Committee, suggestions were made to focus on these students and families directly perhaps creating individual plans for each one. The council discussed at length different incentive programs and unanimously approved a motion to reallocate \$1000 of the SIP budget to this area. There will be more daily reporting of absences via a posting on the main office door. Teachers and staff will be encouraged to reach out to chronically absent students and their families via telephone calls. In addition to the party each quarter for students with 0,1, or 2 absences, shorter-term rewards will be enacted. Cassey Stanger also offered the use of Scholastic bucks that the PTA earned from its last book fair.

Mr. Clark reported on meeting with teachers from each grade level, now called Davis Collaborative Teams, and expressed confidence in those teams to address teaching issues. Mrs. Ricks said that the second grade team is working on the logistics of using small groups to reinforce learning. Parent volunteers are a big help with that.

As the school has a great deal of new technology that has to be kept up, Mr. Clark is considering the hiring of a tech assistant for basic support. The teachers on the council also noted that Mr. Clark has been very helpful in this area and they appreciate his support.

A local boy scout, Carson Tyler, has been working on an Eagle Project to build and install some Buddy Benches on the playground. The benches are done and we are waiting for cement pads to be poured in the next few weeks.

Catherine Carlson expressed a desire to reinstate the 2nd grade patriotic program this year, as it was omitted last year. Mrs. Ricks said she was already moving forward with that and expected to present a program sometime early in next year. In addition, Mrs. Thompson and other parents have shown interest in a musical program in the upper grades. Mr. Clark will facilitate some meetings of the interested parties and get that going.

Catherine Carlson had to leave and the rest of the meeting was recorded by Brittney Bateman.

Agenda Item 4

Mr. Clark asked if there were any questions from the council and said that he could provide the council with any data they needed with a few days.

Since chronic absenteeism was discussed earlier, the council moved the discussion on to the overview of funding sources. Mr. Clark presented portions of the school budget to the council. He explained that the school receives \$7,000 - \$8,000 every year for building projects and that there was about a \$4,000 carryover from last year. Some of those funds are being used for the cement for the buddy bench installations, and the water bottle stations were being funded by both the building fund the school fundraiser. Ms. Ricks suggested that money be used for push brooms and dust pans so that kids could help push the woodchips from the playground back where they belong. Mr. Clark suggested adding inspirational sayings to the mirrors in the bathroom. He said that the school building was in great shape, but there was a need for things like step stools and hand dryers for the bathrooms to save on paper towel costs, reduce trash, and prevent clogging of toilets from towels. Ms. Ricks asked about rolling over funds to save for equipment needed for the outdoor classroom. Mr. Clark affirmed that funds can be carried over.

Mr. Clark asked the council's thoughts on a digital marquee. He said that funding could come from a combination of this year's and next year's facilities budget for installation next year or that he could pull funds from other categories this year and for earlier installation. Mr. Clark has been reviewing quotes and believed that a smaller sign that could fit two lines of text would be \$9,000 and a larger one that could fit pictures would be \$14,000. Mr. Clark said he will check with other schools to see how they liked the software from the current vendor. Concern was raised by Ms. Merrick and Ms. Bateman about parents who students are bused never seeing the messages on the marquee. Concern was also raised by councilmembers about the brightness of the sign at night for surrounding houses. Mr. Clark said that messages on the sign would be posted to the school's Facebook page as well. He also said that the sign could be adjusted to dim at night and only show time and temperature. Ms. Bateman suggested that the bigger size of sign be purchased.

Agenda Item 5

Mr. Clark reported that Senator Hatch and Congressman Bishop attended the Veteran's Day Memorial Program where the 6th grade class sang. He said the Grand Breakfast was a great success. The council discussed that the success was probably due to the RSVPs that were sent out, that it was on Veteran's Day, and that the book fair was running simultaneously. Suggestions for next year included having it on the Veteran's Day holiday, having two tables set for food and welcoming, asking teachers and the student service council to volunteer, having a flag ceremony or something to honor Veterans.

Mr. Clark reviewed the upcoming events: McDonald's night, Reflections awards, winter choir concert, Discovery night in February, and the spelling bee in January.

Agenda Item 6

Mr. Clark asked the council to revise the LAND Trust goal to add math. There was also \$8,000 of funds that needed to be reallocated. He said that most things the teachers need such as extra microphones and math program books can be paid with other funds. Mr. Clark said there were requests for more Ipad labs, brain pop software, and the Reading A to Z (RAZ) program. Ms. Timpke asked about Think Pads for the upper classes. Mr. Clark said that was in next year's budget. The council discussed the RAZ reading program and the benefits of extended day kindergarten, including on if enough children would qualify for the program. Ms. Stanger was excused.

Motion was made by Ms. Ricks to earmark the excess funds for the RAZ program, extended day kindergarten, and training pay for substitutes so that teachers could observe programs implemented in other schools. Mr. Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7

Mr. Clark gave a report on this year's costume parade and asked for feedback. Ms. Timpke noted that there were crossover issues and wondered if the parade route could be remapped. Mr. Clark suggested adding arrows to the floor so that students knew where they were supposed to go and what side of the hall they were supposed to be on. The council discussed whether to require the students have a book for the costume. It was decided that it encourages children to read when the book is required and suggestions were put forth to have a read-a-thon after the parade and send children missing books to the library to find a book.

Agenda Item 8

Mr. Clark discussed the timing of fundraisers and suggested getting PTA fundraiser dates before setting the school fundraiser dates to avoid burnout.

Ms. Ricks asked about money for a school play. Mr. Clark said there is money for enrichment programs because most of the school's programs are self-funded. Ms. Merrick asked to bring back the patriotic program for the second grade. The council discussed the benefits of such programs and the possibilities of implementing them.

Mr. Clark motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Timpke second. Motion passed unanimously.