

# Sand Springs Community Council

Dec. 4, 2015

## MINUTES

Those present: Heather Dustin, Sara Gorham, Melanie Smith, John Speth, Nancy Watkins, Maren Zimmerman, Melissa Skousen, RaeAnn Shelley, Pat Smith, Kerri Kingston (late), Meggan Nicholes (late)

Absent: Sherice Whitesides

Visitor: John Sheffield

The minutes from our Nov. 4, 2015 meeting were read and approved by all. (John Speth motioned to approve and Heather Dustin seconded to approve the minutes.)

We reviewed the current balance of this year's budget. Maren Zimmerman proposed that we use some of the budget for an in class DIBBLES online, computer program for the upper grades. It is already implemented in the younger grades and will save teachers valuable time. It is also very helpful in assessing reading skills for students. It also makes progress monitoring easier. The subscription is 12.00 per year, per student. We have approx. 470 upper grade students for a total of \$5,640.00. She will check with rep. to see if he can pro-rate it because we're part way through the year. Melanie Smith motioned to add this expenditure to the technology portion of our SIP plan which supports our goals as a school. Pat Smith seconded the motion and all were in agreeance to the additional expenditure.

The council also discussed using \$7,000.00 to pay for ½ day subs for the 44 teachers to collaborate in the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This will help them to better apply cross-curriculum in each grade. We will vote on this next meeting.

We have purchased 7 iPads to replace some for the upper grades. We are looking at replacing some iPads in lower grades next year.

We have \$15,246.81 left to spend after approving monies towards DIBBLES. We will review more options next meeting. Megan Nicholes will survey the teachers to see what the greatest needs are. Maren Zimmerman will figure exact amount needed for the collaboration day.

Maren Zimmerman did share the good news that our two new teachers will begin January 19<sup>th</sup> on C track. This is the best time to switch because it is the ½ way point for all the tracks. There will be a new 4<sup>th</sup> grade class in one of our portables. 5<sup>th</sup> grade will follow a Jr. high model with the new teacher teaching math (morning) and reading and writing for the remaining three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Students will be put in pacing groups. We are also very appreciative that the district is allowing us to keep our aids for the remainder of the year.

John Sheffield discussed how FTE is figured. Funding is based on 26.8 kids per teacher and that looks different in each school depending on how teachers get distributed. There is also a teacher shortage so the district will be looking earlier to secure teachers for our continued growth as a district.

Heather asked how we can stop the cycle and forecast student enrollment better for the future. John Sheffield explained that the statistics are evaluated already, but that there can still be changes needed after initial review. An example is the Nielson development of 46 houses northwest of our school. We don't know how many kids will move in depending on family size etc. Currently we have 1.4 children per household in Davis School District.

Our school's FTE for the year is 991 divided by 26.875 students = 36.8 teachers. Our school was allotted 37 teachers. There is a bulge in our district in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The district is currently using 350 portables.

The legislature is looking forward to find solutions to the teacher shortage. Sheffield said that this last round there were only 15 student teachers district-wide and we only retained 1 because other districts had offered jobs before they started.

We discussed dividing the FTE for Spanish Immersion and regular. Mr. Sheffield said that we could do that, but it further fractionates the FTE resulting in fewer teachers per school. If we have smaller numbers in classrooms, then we are working with a fraction of a teacher to go with them. Another option is to do more split (4/5<sup>th</sup> grade) classes. Our challenge is compounded with the track system as well.

We discussed telling parents what we have learned with this new knowledge of FTE problem. I.e. Sending out a FAQs sheet with questions that have been brought up and answers to those questions. Then, we will look into having an Open House if there is enough interest. We as a community council are facilitating getting the info. out to educate parents in hopes of them seeing that we have looked at many options to alleviate the overcrowding problem. Additionally, we hope that as we share, they will see that our options for change are limited.

Melanie distributed info. from the state training on Digital Citizenship. We will discuss this more in Jan., but the new law is designed to help our students be proactive in associating with their digital world. Currently, our White Ribbon Week, training on the computers in the computer lab at the beginning of each school year and the Magician assembly in Feb. help to satisfy the requirements from the state.

We also reviewed Rules of Order and Procedure inspired by Roberts Laws as a courteous way to communicate effectively as a council, esp. if we disagree with an issue. A guideline was given to each member to review and use.

Assignments: Each member needs to submit questions to Sarah before next meeting for FAQs sheet.

Sarah Gorham motioned to adjourn and Melanie Smith seconded it.

Adjourned until January 6, 2016 at 4:00 in the library.