

# Sand Springs Community Council

March 6, 2017

## MINUTES

Those present: Jody Schaap, Melanie Smith, Nancy Watkins, John Speth, Miranda Rasband, Sarah Johnson, Annalisa Glenn, RaeAnn Shelley, Jenni Adams, Julie LaRocco

Absent: Kerri Kingston

Guest: Steve Hershfeldt (intern)

Previous Minutes were approved (motioned to approve by Nancy Watkins and Seconded by Annalisa Glenn.)

### **School Improvement Plan discussion/development:**

We reviewed data to make decisions for the 2017-18 School Improvement Plan (SIP) including comparisons of DIBELS testing from 2015-16 to 2016-17, 20 Utah schools with similar demographics, and 2014-2016 SAGE proficiency test results. (See attachments). The district is not giving predetermined goals this year. We no longer have an attendance goal to meet.

Sand Spring's teachers were polled and they feel like our greatest strength is how teachers care for and value each student providing a safe, happy place to learn. Teachers would like to improve on challenging and academically preparing students to think critically about the world around them. This will be considered in our SIP plan for next year.

We discussed the positive benefits of the "Think Through Math" program for 4-6<sup>th</sup> grades and how it motivates students, allows them to go at their own pace/level, and gives teachers benchmarks as well as placement data. The same program is called "ST Math" for the younger grades. This is the first year we've been using it and it is gaining momentum with more teachers. We'd like to keep using this program.

Other STEM oriented programs include the math/science Olympiad where students try out and attend workshops after school to prepare. Also, our LEGO Robotics after school program has been a huge success and we continue to look for ways to expand it. (PTA, grants, etc.)

Miranda shared the idea of having an evening devoted to math where teachers introduce the math programs they use, websites, etc. to inform parents and students. This would be after Back to School Night and would help get more involved in math success. This would be in addition to the Math Night we have in the spring. Also, a Morning Math Club was discussed. The council would like to see more education for parents to help in math. Another idea presented by John, which has been adopted by some upper grade teachers, is to have students create their own "textbooks" with the info. they get each lesson and make a math binder. We'd like to see this practice become standard for all upper grades.

The district's math program was changed last year to Advantage Math. Fortunately, this year money was used to help teachers with more support. PLC's will also coordinate power hour in math.

For next year, B Track will be implementing the STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math) program. It is hoped that this will even out some classes academically.

The council would like to have more training for teachers and better scheduling for computers to have more effective use of computer time.

**Other:**

Jody suggested the Community Council be more part of track assignments. It was decided that CC will evaluate track change requests and decide on accepting them or rejecting them.

**Assignments:**

Jody will email goal ideas. Each council member will respond to that email with ideas or concerns before our next meeting.

Adjourned (Motion - John 2<sup>nd</sup> - Melanie) until **April 10, 2017** at 4:00 in the library.