

Mountain View Elementary School
Community Council Meeting
Minutes
March 21, 2012
5:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Conducting-Kyle Roche, Co-Chair, Parent Member
 Lynette Wiggins, Co-Chair, Teacher Member
 Don Beatty, Principal Member
 Paul Adams, Parent Member
 Thomas Walsman, Parent Member
 Cathy Siler, Teacher Member
 Lucinda Buel, Parent Member
 Diana Hagen, Parent Member
 Mickie Pace, Administrative Intern/Teacher Member

Absent: Tobin Hagen-Parent Member
 Jamie Noble, PTA President, Parent Member
 Darcy Miller, Parent Member
 Nicole Roche, Parent Member

1. Welcome/Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Co-Chair Parent Member Kyle Roche opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. It was requested that all present sign in. Co-chair Roche moved that the January 25, 2012 minutes be approved. The minutes were approved without objection.

2. Trust Lands

Principal Beatty indicated that while he had not yet received word when the 2012-2013 Trust Lands Plan was due, the Council should start considering priorities. One possible consideration for Trust Lands funding would be an after-school program, which would have an emphasis on homework assistance of basic skills, where placement might come from teachers recommending specific students who might benefit from the additional help. It was noted that some tradeoff for this program might include moving day tutors who otherwise might help during normal school hours to the after-school hours.

3. SNAP

Mickie Pace, Administrative Intern/Teacher Member, reported the proposed updates to the SNAP (Student Neighborhood Access Program) Plan from the last meeting. The SNAP Plan was approved and will be submitted to the district.

4. Community Council Elections

Co-Chair Roche and Principal Beatty briefly discussed the updates the Legislature passed to the Utah Code which affect how community councils will run. It was their impression that most of the changes work to the benefit of the councils. One area of change is in council elections. Elections will now be held at the beginning of the school year rather than at the end of the preceding school year. Additionally, the notice period for filing was shortened.

The makeup of the Community Council was discussed. The size of the Council is still largely within the discretion of the Council subject to certain minimums. The current Council's parent-members are primarily completing the first year of their two-year terms with the exception of Parent-member Lucinda Buel. The Legislature's intent is to have Council's largely have half of the parent-members stand for election each year.

At the next meeting, the Council will determine some minimum bylaws, especially regarding the size of the Council for purposes of scheduling next year's election, and will determine specifically when to hold the election consistent with state law. Co-Chair Roche encouraged all members to send him any ideas for proposed bylaws in advance of the next meeting, if possible.

5. Beverly Sorensen Art Grant

Some confusion existed as to the intended discussion on this topic, as Co-Chair Roche had it listed from the last meeting as a needed agenda item. While no one specifically knew why it was to be discussed, it was reported that due to grant changes, schools now have to fund 20% of the total to be used for the program from their own funds before receiving the grant. Principal Beatty reported that due to district cuts, Mountain View no longer has the seed funding to access the grant funds. This led to a broader discussion of donations to schools. Parent-member Diana Hagen said she had tried to donate to Mountain View programs through various methods, including websites like DonorsChoose.org, but could not find a way to donate online. Principal Beatty said there had been proposals on such websites in the past, but he would encourage individual teachers to make sure they use resources like the Internet for worthwhile projects that could use funding.

6. New Big Toy

Principal Beatty reported that the PTA had been able to offer \$9,000.00 to help fund a new Big Toy for Mountain View, but due to the actual cost was unable to fund a new Big Toy; however, after pressing the issue with the district, the district has agreed to replace both Big Toys at Mountain View. A timeline is being drawn up for the project, and district personnel have been to the playground area to see the needs and area to work with.

7. Staffing Issues

Principal Beatty reported that some community members had questions regarding class loads from grade to grade. He went through how funding is determined: the Legislature sets the overall education budget, the School Board sets the district budget, and the district sets the school budget. To determine FTEs for each school, class size is currently set at 26.875 students per teacher, divide the total enrollment by 26.875 (cut Kindergarten in half due to half-days) and you have the number of FTEs for a school. Schools must distribute FTEs where the numbers in each grade fall. Mr. Beatty always involves the staff to help determine the distribution of the FTEs.

Mr. Beatty discussed additional options for alleviate class size issues. Tutors can be hired, funds permitting, to assist in evening out grade levels with larger class sizes. Additionally, student teachers are used where available.

Class sizes are directly impacted by the issue of boundary variances. Variances are accepted as space is available; however, because variance students are funded not in the current year but in the year after a variance is granted, granting excessive variances can have a negative impact on any given year's present budget which can contribute to increased class sizes. While the administration does its best to anticipate growth, Mountain View is seeing an increase in enrollment in recent years due in part to children unexpectedly moving in with grandparents within the boundaries. Additionally and unfortunately, some clientele of the school are not always honest about whether they live inside or outside the boundaries, so the administration checks the validity of residency within the school boundaries in order to ensure that Mountain View is serving the population it is supposed to serve.

The largest class presently at Mountain View has 33 students.

8. Future Agenda Items

Co-Chair Roche asked for future agenda items. Those identified were: 2012-2013 Trust Lands Plan, Elections, and Bylaws. Co-Chair Roche reminded everyone to send him any agenda items as needed.

9. Adjournment

The Council was reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Co-Chair Roche adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.