

Mountain View Elementary School Community Council Meeting
Minutes
February 27, 2013
5:30 p.m.
Mountain View Elementary School Library

In Attendance: Conducting-Kyle Roche, Chair, Parent-Member
 Don Beatty, Principal
 Tiffany Tuck, Administrative Intern/Teacher-Member
 Tobin Hagen, PTA President, Parent-Member
 Lucinda Buel, Parent-Member
 Diana Hagen, Vice Chair, Parent-Member
 Shana Lauritzen, Teacher- Member
 Jay Yahne, Parent –Member
 Stephanie Kinsey, Parent-Member
 Cathy Siler, Teacher-Member

Absent: Thomas Walsman, Parent-Member
 Nicole Roche, Parent-Member
 Paul Adams, Parent Member
 Taylor Reese, Parent -Member

1. Welcome

Chair Kyle Roche opened the meeting at 5:40 p.m. It was requested that all present sign in. Chair Roche moved that the minutes from December 5, 2012 be approved. The minutes were approved without objection.

2. Community Council Conference Summary

Parent-Member Stephanie Kinsey presented a summary of the statewide Community Council Conference held in Sandy on January 24, 2013. She shared handbooks and handouts with the Council, and agreed to provide websites linking the materials to the members. Parent-Member Kinsey stated that it was a very informative and beneficial conference.

3. School Attendance Discussion

Principal Beatty discussed absenteeism at Mountain View Elementary. Absenteeism is reaching critical levels; in the past three years, 6,000 hours of instruction time has been missed, and this is only counting students who have missed 10 or more days of school in a given year (not including tardies, early checkouts, etc.). This many missed hours clearly has a negative effect on the students missing instruction that often cannot easily be made up. At the elementary-school age, absences are generally more within the control of the parent than the student. While many of these absences are related to illness, many have also admittedly be attributed to choice: vacations, babysitting other siblings, assisting parents with their needs rather than the needs of the child, etc.

Principal Beatty sought input for a positive-focus “students-should-be-in-school” educational campaign. The focus would be to ensure that parents realize how many days their child(ren) is/are missing and to show there is a cost to the child to miss school. Some suggestions for the campaign included “What Did They Miss?” as well as suggesting that at this age, attending school is the equivalent of the child’s employment.

In addition to a positive campaign, there is some discussion of giving state attendance laws some tangible penalties in extreme cases. This would need to occur through the state legislature.

While no formal vote occurred, the comments of the council members indicated general support of Principal Beatty’s concerns and direction, particular regarding a positive information campaign. Particular emphasis was placed on making sure parents knew how many absences their child(ren) experienced on an ongoing basis. While some letters have been sent by school administration, Teacher-Members Cathy Siler and Shana Lauritzen stated they would discuss with the rest of the faculty sending individual notes to each parent periodically, perhaps monthly, stating how many absences their child(ren) has/have.

4. HB 306 Update

Chair Roche provided an update on House Bill 306 – School Land Trust Program Amendments. The proposed bill primarily alters term limits for parent-members, adjusts the election process, and further defines the makeup of community councils. Chair Roche shared his opinion that the changes were largely beneficial, particularly to parent-members.

Principal Beatty mentioned two other proposed bills – SB 110 and SB 133 – which deal with school funding. Little action has been taken on these bills at present, and it remains to be seen how far they will progress in this legislative session.

5. Known Items/Issues for Next Meeting

The issue of school security was raised for the next meeting. Principal Beatty commented on recent changes to school security, particularly further measures to ensure all visitors enter the school by the front office and every visitor check in and be issued a visitor badge or be challenged by staff and/or faculty. All council members were encouraged to help set the example; while many spend a significant amount of time at the school and are known by much of the staff and faculty, council members should check in and wear badges during the day to help encourage less-frequent visitors to do the same. These measures are to help better protect our children.

The next meeting shall be March 20, 2013. Chair Roche adjourned the meeting at 7:00p.m.