

Mountain View Elementary School Community Council Meeting
Minutes
November 5, 2014
6:10 p.m.
Mountain View Elementary School Library

In Attendance: Conducting- Kyle Roche, Chair, Parent-Member
Don Beatty, Outgoing Principal
Nanette Roberston, Incoming Principal
Tiffany Tuck, Administrative Intern/Teacher-Member
Diana Hagen, Co-Chair, Parent-Member
Nicole Roche, Secretary, Parent-Member
Meggan Baxter, PTA President
Tobin Hagen, Parent-Member
Ginger Paxman, Teacher-Member
Alina Ballard, Parent-Member
Tanya LaForce, Parent-Member
Daniel Baxter, Parent-Member
Nicole Adams, Parent-Member

Absent: Jamie Noble, Parent-Member
Lynette Wiggins, Teacher-Member

Visitors: Dr. Helene Van Natter, DSD
Belinda Kuck, DSD

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chair Kyle Roche opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Chair Roche welcomed Mountain View's new principal, Nanette Robertson. He also introduced guests Dr. Helene Van Natter, the elementary school director of Mountain View Elementary and Belinda Kuck, the assistant director of curriculum. Principal Robertson briefly introduced herself.

2. Approval of May 21, 2014 Minutes

Chair Roche moved that the minutes from May 21, 2014 be approved. The minutes were approved without objection.

3. AR, Mountain View and Davis School District

Principal Beatty invited Belinda Kuck, Davis School District's assistant director of curriculum, to speak to the Community Council about why the district decided to discontinue the use of the AR program.

Mrs. Kuck discussed research that suggests that the AR program is negatively impacting students once they reach junior high school due to a dependency on book levels and a

pressure to fulfill goals. She stated that the highest percentage of growth is seen in students that are self-directed and have self-motivating goals. Students who determine their own reading goals and stretch themselves beyond a predetermined reading level have the most success. She stated that the best reward for reading should be reading itself, not prizes; in fact, prizes tend to decrease a student's motivation.

Council members expressed concern about losing some of the features of the AR program such as quizzes, which help to determine if a student is in fact reading and how well they are reading the material. Mrs. Kuck pointed out that the questions on AR tests do not actually test comprehension but can actually be fairly inconsequential details in a story, which can result in students who are excellent readers being discouraged because their scores were low based on being tested on information that was not vital to the story.

The Council asked for Mrs. Kuck's suggested alternatives for the AR program. Mrs. Kuck suggested that Mountain View Elementary may benefit from being a pilot school in a new Road to Success program. Other pilot schools are seeing great success with the program. She also offered to personally work with the school and teachers to develop a program that would work best for Mountain View.

It was discussed whether or not Mountain View could purchase the AR program despite the district's position. Mrs. Kuck said that one school had received the go ahead to fund the AR program; however, it cannot come out the Trust Lands funds, but must come from an alternative source, such as the PTA. However, Mrs. Kuck strongly discouraged perpetuating the "culture of AR" and instead create a "culture of life long readers."

The Council briefly discussed alternatives to AR. It was decided that the issue of AR replacement would be on the Agenda for the December 3, 2014 meeting. The council will continue to discuss the best solution for Mountain View.

4. Trust Lands Training

It was determined that due to the changes in administration and the time taken by the AR discussion that the Trust Lands training would be postponed to December 3, 2014.

5. Known Issues/Items for the Next Meeting

Parent-member Jamie Noble has informed the MVCC chair of her intent to step down and vacate her position on the Council. Chair Roche will arrange for information to be given to the parents of Mountain View informing them of the opening on the MVCC and the procedure to apply for the position. He will get the information to Principal Robertson to go in Monday Folders. The parent-members of the council will meet briefly on December 3, 2014 to vote on filling the empty position.

During the December 3, 2014 meeting the MVCC will participate in the Trust Lands training as mandated by statute. The Council will also continue the discussion about AR changes.

The Mountain View Elementary School Community Council expressed their love and gratitude to Principal Don Beatty for his years of service. He will be greatly missed but the council looks forward to getting to know and work with Principal Robertson.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.