

Mountain View Elementary School Community Council Meeting
Minutes
January 14, 2015
6:10 p.m.
Mountain View Elementary School Library

In Attendance: Conducting- Kyle Roche, Chair, Parent-Member
 Nanette Roberston, Principal
 Tiffany Tuck, Administrative Intern/Teacher-Member
 Meggan Baxter, PTA President
 Daniel Baxter, Parent-Member
 Tobin Hagen, Parent-Member
 Lynette Wiggins, Teacher-Member
 Ginger Paxman, Teacher-Member
 Alina Ballard, Parent-Member
 Tanya LaForce, Parent-Member
 Jay Yahne, Parent-Member
 Mendy Gardner, Guest – Technology Services

Absent: Diana Hagen, Co-Chair, Parent-Member
 Nicole Roche, Secretary, Parent-Member
 Nicole Adams, Parent-Member

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chair Kyle Roche opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. He welcomed Parent-Member Jay Yahne, who was appointed by the parents at the last meeting to fill a mid-term vacancy on the council.

2. Approval of December 3, 2014 Minutes

Chair Roche moved that the minutes from December 3, 2014 be approved. The minutes were approved without objection.

3. Presentation by Mendy Gardner, Technology Services – Trust Land needs and AR

The Council heard from Mendy Gardner, who provides technology support at Mountain View Elementary. Ms. Gardner talked about issues the school is having regarding the classroom projectors. Many of the projectors are now failing all at once, and the school is having a hard time keeping up with replacing them. Since the first of the year, Ms. Gardner has already had to replace six to seven projectors. Additionally, the older projectors generally have to be used with the lights out in order to see what's on the screen, affecting student productivity, while newer models are bright enough that this isn't necessary. While it is impossible to know when they will fail, it is anticipated that

all that haven't been replaced in the last year likely will need to be replaced within a year.

In addition to replacing/upgrading these projectors, Ms. Gardner talked about opportunities to use more interactive technology. Every teacher now has access to an iPad in his/her classroom. By introducing an additional iPad in each class for a student to use in place of "go to the board and write your answer", and/or by adding Apple TV to each class, the technology would be far more interactive and beneficial to the students.

The cost to replace a projector and introduce AppleTV to a classroom would be approximately \$600.00 per classroom. Ms. Gardner estimates the cost to equip the whole school would be approximately \$15,000.00.

Ms. Gardner also looked at some possible alternatives to AR for the council to review. She provided some Internet links for a program by Sylvan Learning – bookadventure.com – and also talked briefly about Scholastic Reading Counts. While not endorsing one over another, Ms. Gardner offered these as some possible alternatives.

Ms. Gardner was excused from the meeting at this time.

4. Trust Lands Plan

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding funding next year's Trust Lands Plan. At present, the council must assume it will have approximately \$40,000.00 to spend, which is slightly lower than this year's actual amount but hopefully takes into account the possible lower returns on gas and oil investment this year. In examining the current year's budget, taking all expenditures away except for reading and math tutors would still leave the council having to cut the tutor budget in order to meet the technology request Ms. Gardner presented. While some of those other expenditures, like AR/iPads and IXL are not necessary or are reduced for next year, there was still great concern on how to handle this significant investment. Many members raised the concern that even if the funds were available, is it wise to purchase all new projectors at once simply to have to deal with another total replacement upgrade in five years when the new projectors reach the end of their lives? What are the teachers' priorities – projectors or tutors? Could the council fund the projectors over two years, or somehow split the cost with the district or another entity?

The council agreed to continue to look at the issue before finalizing a budget for next year. Chair Roche and Ms. Robertson will take a look at present and future funding. Perhaps a fundraiser or two, like a walk-a-thon, could be used to provide supplemental funding. The faculty will be asked for input on teacher priorities.

5. School Improvement Plan

Ms. Robertson and Mrs. Tuck reported that Mountain View received an “A” grade on the new statewide grading system. The school saw progress particularly in the Tier 1 students and small groups. The message interpreted and received from the grade is that Mountain View needs to stay the course.

6. AR Follow-up Discussion

Parent-member Alina Ballard addressed the council. She also has students attending Antelope Elementary and AR was previously removed from Antelope. Mrs. Ballard discussed with the Antelope librarian what she had done to keep students reading after AR was gone. The librarian had several approaches to this issue. One approach was a “scavenger hunt” approach to reading, which requires students to read from several parts of the library and therefore several genres, and provides different incentives as rewards, from Chick-Fil-A and Pizza Hut freebies to books from Scholastic Dollars. A second approach is a “punch card”, which could be used for different genres or books specific to a child’s needs. Additionally, the librarian has been at Antelope for some time and knows the children there fairly well, so she can encourage the children to keep a list of books they read and suggest other books on the individual student’s level and when they accomplish a goal, can provide them with a simple reward and encouragement. Finally, other ideas can come from the book *The Book Whisperer*.

These ideas were embraced by the council, although these were focuses more on what the school could do than what parents could do to support reading. The council also was very interested in further research on the programs presented by Ms. Gardner. It was suggested and agreed that a small workgroup examine particularly the programs presented by Ms. Gardner. While all members can look into these programs, parent-members Meggan Baxter, Alina Ballard, and Tobin Hagen agreed to review these programs and report back at the next meeting with their impressions and any recommendations.

7. Known Issues/Items for the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Trust Lands funding and AR will be included on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.