

Central Davis Junior High School Community Council Meeting
Minutes
February 16, 2017
4:00 p.m.
Central Davis Junior High School

In Attendance: Conducting- Kyle Roche, Chair, Parent-Member
 TJ Barker, Principal
 Nicole Roche, Secretary, Parent-Member
 Kristie Bennington, Teacher-Member
 Kim Harmon, Teacher-Member
 Matt King, Teacher-Member
 Shari Miller, Teacher-Member
 Jennifer Perry, Parent Member
 Jay Yahne, Parent-Member

Absent: Julie Linford, PTA President
 Kelly Janis, Parent-Member
 Alina Ballard, Parent-Member

Visitors Matthew Lewandoski, Student Officer
 Kathleen Peterson
 Patti Horton, Teacher via Phone

1. Welcome

Chair Kyle Roche opened the meeting at 4:04 p.m. Chair Roche made note that a parent member of the council, Melinda Mackey, had e-mailed him in the preceding week and advised him that due to personal reasons she would need to resign from the council, effective immediately.

2. Approval of January 19, 2017 Minutes

Chair Roche presented the meeting minutes from January 19, 2017. A motion was made by Jennifer Perry to approve the minutes and was seconded by Kimberly Harmon. The minutes were approved without objection.

3. Student Officer Election/Constitution Amendments

8th Grade Class President Matt Lewandoski addressed the council last meeting. He is seeking to amend the Student Constitution. Currently, a student may only be elected once to office, in the 8th or 9th grade, allowing them to serve once; however, if they are appointed as a 7th grade ambassador, they are not barred from seeking elected office in the 8th or 9th grade, meaning they could serve in office twice. The council was asked for its recommendation as to if a change should be made to the Central Davis Student Constitution to allow students to run for more than one year of office. Principal Barker sent out a survey to the teachers asking their opinion of the

matter. At the time of the council meeting, the survey was at approximately a 50/50 split as to whether there should be a change. One faculty member, Mr. Gardner, had suggested that perhaps a good alternative would be to allow students to run only once for grade office and once for student body office. There was extensive discussion by the council as to how students are determined to be eligible for student council, concerns about legacy or dominant students, leadership opportunities, training, etc. Patti Horton, the student council advisor, was called and graciously answered the council's many questions about the student council election and selection process.

The council agreed that it was imperative that all stakeholders, including the faculty, the PTA, and the student body, should be heard on a potential amendment to the Constitution. It was also felt that this issue should be evaluated carefully and not be rushed, and that a decision may not be forthcoming for the impending elections. Once all feedback has been received, the Standards Committee may decide whether to formally recommend a constitutional amendment to the school administration, which would make the final decision. Several options for amending the Constitution were suggested, posed as motions, seconded, and passed, including removing the restriction on being elected multiple times; allowing a student to serve as an officer only once while at Central Davis, whether elected or appointed; or considering other alternatives. It was recognized, however, that only removing the restriction against being elected multiple times had been presented to the faculty, and if anything was going to be done prior to this year's elections, there was not time to pose these alternatives to the faculty and the other stakeholders and bring it back to the council before the election cycle began. Chair Roche and Teacher-Member Shari Miller, both members of the Standards Committee who as a result recused themselves from voting on the motions under consideration by the council, agreed that they understood the general feeling of the council was that the current provision in the Constitution was unfair and needed to be changed, but that there was greater support for limiting students to serving in office only one year, thereby guaranteeing more students had the opportunity to serve in office, than simply to remove the restriction on elections.

The council expressed its congratulations to Matt for bringing this issue to the attention of the administration and championing his position, even when his position was repeatedly challenged by parents and faculty. Matt is commended for his poise and strength of character. Central Davis is very proud to have such wonderful students like Matt as leaders.

4. Bylaws – Phase 1

[Note: a copy of Phase 1 of the Council Bylaws, as presented to the council prior to their discussion, is attached to the end of these minutes.]

Currently, the Central Davis Community Council does not have any formal bylaws. Chair Roche has been working on drafting bylaws as he was charged with doing at the last meeting. Chair Roche reminded the council that as a starting point, state statute and administrative rule ultimately trump community council bylaws. Chair Roche also outlined a suggested roadmap for

adopting the bylaws, with Phase 1 of the bylaws being discussed at the present meeting, Phase 2 being discussed at the March 2017 meeting, and final revisions and a formal vote to adopt the bylaws being held at the April 2017 meeting.

Phase 1 of the proposed bylaws address the statutory and administrative authority of for the council and its bylaws; the composition of the council, voting rights, and term of office; and election procedures and non-election vacancies. While many of the proposed bylaws came straight from statute and administrative rule, significant discussion occurred regarding the number of council members. Chair Roche and Principal Barker reported that statute requires that there be two more parent members than teacher members. While Chair Roche proposed a specific number of parent members be adopted, the council asked if instead a minimum and maximum number of parent members could be established in the bylaws. Chair Roche agreed to try to come up with some appropriate language before a final vote on the bylaws that would satisfy this request and comply with election requirements under the statute.

Additionally, it was discussed if the PTA president should be a voting or and ex officio member of the council. Chair Roche recommended, and the council concurred, that the PTA president should be a full voting member.

5. 2017-18 LAND Trust Plan – Teacher Proposals/Presentations

At the next meeting on March 16, 2016, teachers will present their proposals for a portion of next year's LAND Trust funds. Their written proposals will go out before the meeting so that they can be reviewed by members. This meeting will be longer due to the teacher proposals, so all are encouraged to be present on time so the meeting can move forward as quickly as possible.

6. Known Issues/Items for Next Meeting

The known items for the March 16, 2017 meeting include phase 2 of the council bylaws, and teacher proposals for next year's LAND Trust Plan.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Parent-Member Jay Yahne. Teacher-Member Kim Harmon seconded the motion. There were no objections. The meeting was dismissed at 6:00 p.m.

Central Davis Junior High Community Council Bylaws

Phase 1 – Proposed February 16, 2017

(1) Purpose and Intent – These Bylaws shall be the operating guidelines of the Central Davis Junior High School Community Council (“CDCC”). The intent of these Bylaws is to comply with the statutes enacted by the Utah State Legislature, currently contained in Utah Code Ann. §§53A-1a-108, 53A-1a-108.1, 53A-1a-108.5, and 53A-16-101.5, and administrative rule.

(2) Composition of Council, Voting Rights, Term of Office – CDCC shall have [seven] parent or guardian-member (“parent-member”) positions and no more than [seven] educator–member positions. Additionally, the Central Davis PTA president and/or co-president will serve on CDCC.

Parent-members may be elected to serve individually or as couples with full voting rights; however, a single position, regardless of whether held by an individual or a couple, only has one vote for any business conducted by CDCC. Educator-members have full voting rights. The Central Davis principal shall serve as an ex officio member with full voting rights. The Central Davis PTA president or co-president will serve as an ex officio, voting member of CDCC.

Parent-members are elected to two–year terms, and are eligible to serve in office so long as they have a child enrolled in the school or will have a child enrolled in the school during their term in office. Parent-member elections shall be staggered so that approximately fifty percent of the parent-members stand for election in a given year. Educator-members also serve two-year terms. The Central Davis PTA president’s or co-presidents’ term coincides with his and/or her term as PTA president/co-president.

Commencing with the 2017-18 school year, in order to ensure that elected members are properly representing their constituents, any parent- or guardian-member who fails to attend [at least half] of the scheduled council meetings during a single school year will be deemed to have vacated their position[, regardless of the reasons for the excessive absences]. Additionally, any parent- or guardian-member who no longer lives within school boundaries, no longer has a child attending the school, and no longer otherwise meets the eligibility requirements to serve on the council shall automatically be deemed to have vacated their position upon concurrence by the principal and the chair and/or vice-chair. The vacant position will be filled in accordance with the procedures below.

(3) Election Procedures, Non-Election Vacancies – Elections for parent-members and educator-members, including qualifications and notice requirements, will be conducted as outlined in Utah Code Ann. § 53A-1a-108. CDCC shall determine a proposed timetable of specific dates for the annual fall elections the preceding spring at the final CDCC meeting of the school year.

Should a CDCC member vacate their position before his or her normal term of office expires, or if vacancies remain after an election, then the parent-members of CDCC shall appoint a qualified parent or guardian of a Central Davis student (“community member”) to fill any parent-member vacancies and the educator-members shall appoint a qualified educator to fill any educator-member vacancies. The new member shall serve the remaining portion of the term for which they were appointed.