

# STEWART COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 3, 2019, 3:30pm

Conference room in the 1st grade hall

## Members Present:

Amanda Keller, Brooke Haag, Amy Neal, Rachelle Boulton, Heather Taylor, Laura Charchenko, Jen Christensen, Gina Hirst, Heather Taylor (PTA President)

## Members Absent:

None

## Minutes

1. 2019 Trainings
  - a. Schedule for 2019 Community Council trainings was emailed to members
  - b. Trainings are in-person and online
  - c. Amanda found the in-person training in previous years to be more helpful than the online
2. School Land TRUST Plan Review
  - a. We will review numbers next month – challenges with accessing RISE data have made it difficult to objectively measure the difference in academics
  - b. Three goals from last year:
    - i. Implement STEM teaching and learning processes in all classrooms
      1. Achieved through teacher training in CMI (comprehensive math instruction)
    - ii. 73% of K-3 students will show typical or higher progress on DIBELS
      1. 72% - this is great, it is a 4% increase from the previous year
    - iii. Increase keyboarding proficiency in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders
      1. We need to get this data from the district
  - c. Since the district ended up paying for one of the TAs we budgeted for, the money was spent on extra projectors for classrooms
3. STEAMraiser
  - a. A packet has been developed for kids to take home to their parents describing how the fundraiser works and ways to donate money
  - b. An email will be sent from the school tomorrow with a video
    - i. Video will include the principal (Amanda), a PTA member (Becki), a Community Council member (Heather), and a teacher (Amy)
    - ii. The video will describe the fundraiser and the purpose, and demonstrate the fundraiser is a combined effort between the school, Community Council, and PTA
  - c. Benefits to the furniture we are trying to purchase:
    - i. Creates a more collaborative environment
    - ii. Easier to move – the classroom can revolve around instruction needs, kids can also move the furniture
    - iii. Eliminates individual desk drawers – allows students more opportunity to move, and reduces distractions
  - d. This fundraiser will allow us to gather information to assess what worked and what didn't so we can improve/focus efforts in future years
  - e. Concern over whether the raffle was legal – both the school board and Utah AG have approved
    - i. The raffle is just a component of this effort, it also includes group and whole school rewards
  - f. Fundraising belongs in the "fees" category
    - i. Our process of rewarding kids in class may highlight who is not participating
    - ii. Prize board will be on a rolling bulletin board

- iii. Kids will be pulled from class into the hall to collect money and deposit tickets, to try to reduce classroom disruption
  - g. For digital donations to be assigned to specific children, the child's name must be in a general comment box, which is on the third page (check out page)
  - h. Several businesses have donated money directly
4. STEAM Night
- a. 21 vendors are participating
  - b. The PTA is sponsoring dinner for the teachers
  - c. Food will be sold at the event: cotton candy, popcorn, donuts, soda, and water
  - d. 3 school-hosted activities will be held in the library
  - e. Businesses who have donated money are invited to attend for recognition
  - f. The silent auction, which has been a tradition for fundraising at the school for many years, is being moved to its own event in February
5. Homework Policy Discussion
- a. Three parents joined to discuss concerns over the school's no-homework policy
  - b. The policy can lead to a disconnect between student school and home life
    - i. Parents struggle to know what their children are learning each day
    - ii. Work can come home too late for parents to assist in instruction
    - iii. Parents miss opportunities for one-on-one time with their kids
  - c. Different communication platforms for data sharing across teachers can make it difficult to stay up-to-date
    - i. Apps are easier to communicate with and provide more flexibility than the email system
  - d. Feedback on the no homework policy has been mostly positive, although the school to home disconnect is real and needs to be addressed
  - e. Teachers spend a lot of time tracking down homework, which suggests it isn't a priority for most parents, and is not the best use of teacher time
  - f. Online resources allow parents to customize learning in the home
  - g. We need to develop better ways to communicate expectations and resources to parents
  - h. Start with math – Amy suggested teachers could easily screen cap sample problems that could be sent to parents either in weekly emails or at the beginning of a unit