

## Minutes for Uintah SCC Meeting

03.12.2020

**Attendance:** Amanda Funai, Carol Theurer, Jennifer Foth, Jan Nystrom, Jacob Skog, Caroline Moreno, Melissa Ford, Bruce Simpson. Ellen Schwede taking minutes as Amy Taylor is not present.

- **Welcome & Introduction**

Meeting called to order.

- **Approve February 20, 2020 minutes**

Jacob noted that last month's minutes were inadvertently not sent out and asked that people respond by email if they need to amend them once they are sent out.

- **Principal's Report**

Bruce gave a heads up that Uintah will be audited by the State Land Trust in April to ensure that money is being spend as stated on our plan. This includes a reminder that the school website must be up do date with SCC minutes, etc.

ALSO, we are waiting for direction from the district regarding school closures and restrictions (a text outlining the new restrictions arrived later during the meeting.) Reminded parents that kids are hearing plenty about the Covid-19 pandemic and are getting worried. We need to be calm and matter-of-fact when discussing the virus with our kids. Carol said that, while there has been no school-wide discussion of the virus, all teachers are reminding kids to wash their hands more often, and they are focusing on washing desks, doorknobs, and other commonly-touched surfaces frequently.

- a) **Digital Citizenship/school safety**

Netsmart had new funding to teach programs on digital safety for kids, and they had planned to come hold two assemblies (for upper and lower grades), but that is cancelled due to State of Emergency.

- b) **Land Trust Plan**

Draft Due Date was moved up to March 13. Bruce proposes that we use the money for a combined Special Education / ELD position, which would help meet our Land Trust goals. We are currently paying for our full-time (1.0) SpEd teacher with 0.5 from the district and 0.5 from other school funds. We also are paying for a 0.5 ELD position. We are losing funding for 0.5 faculty from the district due to the loss of 30 students this year, and SIC has suggested combining the positions to better serve our student population, and additionally provide some Tier II / Tier III interventions. Unfortunately, our current SpEd teacher does not have the correct qualifications based on new district standards to continue in his position. We also do not want to lose our current ELD teacher, but she does not have SpEd qualifications. It was noted that it may be difficult fill the combined position, so Bruce will be looking at a number of options, including sharing a SpEd teacher with another school.

Questions were raised about how we would continue to pay for paraprofessionals, who are currently funded with most of the Land Trust money. Bruce says that we have TSSA funds that can pay for paraprofessionals, including a designated para for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade (which will again be just 2 classrooms). After some discussion, as well as concerns raised about past bullying incidents, we agreed that any remaining Land Trust funds will be spent on social/emotional needs, with some flexibility built into the wording to allow it to address other needs that may come up. Jacob moved to pass the Land Trust Draft Plan with the proviso that we will not lose funding for paraprofessionals. Caroline seconded, and the motion was passed.

We did discuss how to meet funding needs for the science curriculum, as that is how any extra Land Trust money was designated in past years. We will need to update our science curriculum due to changing state standards. While the subjects being taught are mostly staying the same, they may be changed to other grade levels for which our current curriculum may not be appropriate. Bruce said that do have funds at the school, and Ellen noted that there is also the Art, Science and Technology SLEF fund, so teachers can order the new curriculum as needed.

**c) Parent and student night March 17**

This will be postponed due to the state of emergency prohibition on gatherings over 100 (SLCSD is further restricting gatherings to 50 max.) Amanda asked if they would be sending out information to parents covering what would have been discussed. Bruce responded that he would prefer that the information be covered in the context of a community meeting. He noted that a small packet of a crystal-light-like substance containing THC and CBD was found in an upper grade classroom, though no student (not unsurprisingly) has claimed it. Students are also discussing pornography at school, though probably not accessing it since school servers would block and flag it. Bruce would still like to hold this event as soon as possible, with the goal of supporting kids in making good decisions when confronted with substance abuse, pornography and bullying.

• **District Updates**

Melissa noted that the legislative session has just ended, and they may have designated slightly more money for schools than in past years. She warned that many legislators are still working to remove the education-only earmark from the state income tax, so we should be cautious.

As for the state of emergency, school is not cancelled but there are many new restrictions in place. A few students at other schools in the district were exposed to Covid-19 at a recent Utah Jazz event; they are self-quarantined at home. There are 5 cases in the state, but none so far related to the district. For the next two weeks (until after Spring Break) there will be:

NO volunteers (including parents) in the facilities

NO Field Trips

NO gatherings of over 50 (this will affect how lunch is served. Assemblies are cancelled)

NO after-school activities except for aftercare

There will be no penalty if you choose to keep your child home.

The schools may close at any time if community transmission begins. They are looking at options for remote learning; these may be grade-dependent – upper grades already do lots of work online, whereas that is tricky for lower grades. Access to wi-fi and computers is also a concern. They are working hard to ensure that food-insecure kids will continue to receive meals, and that the needs of homeless students are met, but these plans are still in the works. Parents will be notified if there is a known exposure to a student at their child's school. We're advised to check slcschools.org for more info.

The Superintendent and Business Administrator hiring search timeline will be decided at the upcoming school board meeting. They will probably aim to hire a full-time business administrator this year and put off the superintendent decision until next year after the board elections in November.

Late Start for the district High Schools is planned to begin in 2021-22. There is a very large implementation task force being formed to help address and mitigate a very wide range of concerns in regards to the change in schedules and its effect on families, jobs, childcare, and more.

- **PTA Update**

In light of the Covid-19 restrictions just put in place by the district, PTA will move forward cautiously with planning for Art Night, Teacher Appreciation Week, Field Day, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation with the understanding that they either might not happen, or might move online or be otherwise modified. Jenny Foth is finishing the yearbook and had planned to take some photos next week; she will ask teachers to snap a few photos instead. Art Night fundraising may be down considerably – we are fortunate to have a large reserve of funds from previous years to use for next year, but we would like to find a way to celebrate kid's art if possible. We will re-assess after spring break.

- **SIC update**

Teachers are trying to do business as usual, and will try to address kid's concerns as they are raised, with an emphasis on handwashing and hygiene.

Carol has asked Brian Conley to help us begin our principal hiring search as soon as possible, as ideally we would have the hiring done by May to ease the transition to next year. A 12-person hiring committee would be formed of teachers and parents. HR would screen candidates based on their qualifications, but it would be up to the Uintah committee to choose at least two top candidates (ranked as 1<sup>st</sup> choice and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice). The superintendent will make the final hiring decision, but will almost always appoint the 1<sup>st</sup> choice as requested by the school hiring committee (this procedure is based on a negotiated agreement.)

**Meeting adjourned.**