

Uintah Elementary School Community Council Meeting

December 10, 2020

4:45 – 6:00 pm

Open Meeting/Roll Call

Bruce Simpson, Annie Cowley, Angie Carter, Jacob Skog, Amanda Funai, Erika, Jennifer Foth, Ellen Schwede, Carol Theurer, Stacey Hirata, Caroline Moreno, Samuel Hansen, Amy Taylor, Melissa Ford

Welcome to Uintah SCC Meeting. Jake Skog leading December Meeting.

Agenda:

Approve previous meeting minutes from November: Jacob Skog votes to approve minutes, Bruce votes for grammatical changes, vote that if they do not change context of meeting to approve. Jacob moved to approve, Amy Taylor approved, no objections.

Leftover business from previous meeting:

- Yearbook: Parents have been sending pictures. There will be some quite different, yet useful content. Reminders will be going out to teachers who have not submitted anything yet.

Report from Principal:

- Survey that went out to parents regarding return to school:
 - a. If anyone is having problems responding or need to change mind, please contact Mr. Simpson.
- Informational night on Monday, 12/14/2020 at 6:00pm to go over main questions Mr. Simpson is getting. How are we going to keep people safe? What will day look like?
 - a) Spaced out in cafeteria with number system
 - b) Carol Theurer's Room with desks separated out, social distancing around her desk.
 - c) Mr. Simpson is not trying to convince parents to have students to return or not. Just trying to help them make an informed and educated decision.
- PBIS committee met specifically about what we need to teach our kids to come back safely.
 - a) 3 basic things that go along with Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful. Mask Up! Frankenstein! Debating on Sanitize.
 - b) Procedures for coming in building, hallway, classroom, lunchroom, PE, Recess/outside, end of day procedures.
 - c) How will we handle things, so students are masked, social distancing, cleaning and safe?
- Caroline Moreno wants to know if parent's can change their mind regarding returning and if the information can be shared by the health department that led the District to return. The information that was presented to board will be first thing Mr. Simpson will share at parent night.
- To help us transition safely, Mr. Simpson set up tours and visits with schools in Granite district to see what they have learned, what they have seen and what can we learn and see what is working well for them, so we do not have to re-invent the wheel.

- a) Jacob Skog spoke about Hillsdale Elementary School. He spoke about movements in hallways, lunch, and recess. A lot of his fears were put to rest regarding students returning to school. Everything about what he saw was heartening. He is glad he went on the visit because he was on the fence about sending his student(s) and the exceptional care the administration and staff took regarding kid's safety made him feel much more comfortable. He spoke about citizenship and that kids are taking to masks, repetitive washing of hands, social distancing and how it will now probably be a part of our society hereon.
 - b) Carol Theurer spoke about how desks were not 6ft apart. As she set up her classroom, she was able to set up 17 desks 3.5ft apart. She feels like out lunchroom is set up much better than theirs because all students are facing same way where theirs were zigzagged across from one another. Recess looked very normal. They had the field as mask free zone, and they noticed that not one kid was on the field. If they were masked upped, they could run, play and be kids. After every recess, a recess duty pushed a shopping cart around to sanitize the playground equipment. She felt like there would be changes like rug time, tape on ground to ensure desks stay in right place. Big mindset change would be parents were not allowed in the building. They trace every person that is in the building. There is a need though to limit people in the building. Distance between kids, she did not see discipline problems. Because of the 15-minute time constraints and because of no masks during lunch, lunch is less than 15 minutes.
 - c) Bruce mentioned the zip code for Hillsdale is an extremely high Covid red zone. 33% compared to our 17%. In the building they have 6 cases (just students), none from the building but from family member. So far, none of the kids who have had to quarantine have tested positive. Time is of an issue for lunch time, being that you can only have 1 grade at a time. Lunch used to be more social but because masks are off that is not where socializing should be happening. Kids need socializing, just not a lunch. It is Bruce's understanding that hot lunch will be sack lunches so it will be fast to pick-up and eat. The term that they use in the school is "Purposeful Movement" to help the kids understand there is a purpose behind all our movement through the building. We want to try to minimize how much of the gym we use to lunch so that we can still have PE because kids have not had it for most of this year. Bruce loved how they cleaned the tables with flat, rectangular mops. Principal wore fanny packs full of hand sanitizer, masks, measuring tape, etc.
 - d) Jenny Foth feels put at ease about kids coming back. Students look happy and engaged and after watching her students not be happy or engaged it was good to see. Her kids are not thriving, so after seeing the school she feels like it is worth the minimal risk sending them back. Everyone seemed so happy! Kids were learning and having an enjoyable time doing it.
- Caroline Moreno asked the teachers how they feel about returning to in-person. Angie Carter spoke about having COVID and teachers getting put towards the front of the line for the vaccine which is encouraging from a health perspective. She is a little nervous about the teaching part, teaching both digital and in-person learners. She requested to teach both to keep her class the same. It is challenging for digital kids to get the same as in-person do. She feels safe from a health standpoint but is nervous about the teaching aspect. Carol Theurer spoke about how

many teachers think it is best to keep kids in original classroom, with original teacher, which will require more work for teachers. Plan for one class but support more than learning structure whether be online or in-person. Carol talked about not having a revolving door for going online and in-person, allowing parents to change at the beginning of a quarter.

- Sam asked about having a half-day schedule where they attend morning class, went home, had lunch, then everyone was online in afternoon. Bruce spoke about the low attendance in the afternoon which would be a worry. Bruce spoke about going back to 6.5hr day. How can we take some of the extra time to support the on-line kids better?
- Amy Taylor spoke about many parents being ready, willing, and able to still volunteer and/or support teachers. Carol feels incredibly lucky to have a paraprofessional in every grade. They should be able to step-in and sub for teachers and know exactly what they are doing because they are supporting them every day. Bruce said volunteers will be looked at if a specific need arises and we can do it in a safe way.
- Melissa Jansen wanted to know about numbers from survey of who would like to come back in-person vs. staying online. Bruce says survey is still open, but the majority is showing parents want their students to return in-person. Melissa asked about hybrid model and Bruce stated that the data from the health department showed no statistical difference in the spread from a hybrid model to full schedule, so the district has done away with the hybrid model. Samuel Hanson stated that unless it buys you more physical distance, hybrid is not much different safety wise.
- Melissa Ford spoke about how all schools are so different and how the virus is affecting each separate community. The superintendent was very thoughtful when he allowed the return to be community driven. It will look different at each school and community because it should. It has been an extremely hard year from communities, administrators, teachers, kids. Melissa is grateful we are all working so hard together to support kids. We will use the things that we have learned over these past months to be better for our students.

Report from SIC (SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL)

- Nothing

Report from PTA

- Melissa Jansen spoke about Uintah Goes East. They are collecting pantry goods until December 18th.

From the Board

- Samuel Hanson's last meeting. He was thanked from committee for his service to our community.
- Melissa Ford stated the board will be reaching out with public forums during the 1st and 2nd week of January. It would ask if Superintendent Madden would stay on, but all signs point to no and that he is retiring. The position is open, but they need community feedback to screen applicants. 2-year term for a Superintendent.

Call for motions?

ADJOURN. Jacob moved to adjourn, Caroline Moreno 2nd, all in favor, no oppose.