Welcome

Introductions (in the chat)
Kimberly Venable, parent
Jennifer Cologna, Kindergarten teacher, SIC representative
Tisha Eggleston 5th Grade Collaborative Classroom Special Education Teacher
Jennifer Rosenthal, SCC member, parent
Angela Woodhead, Vice Chair, Parent to 2nd grade IP ELP student
April Reynolds-principal
Lucy Hansen, parent of 4th and 1st grader, SCC member
Kim Knettles - Teacher/Community Member
Mike Rasmussen, parent
Jill Stanford, Secretary and parent of a Kinder and 4th Grader
Leah Jaramillo - parent of 3rd grader
Stacey Earle, Parent
Kathy Chapman, teacher
Steven Lukens, Parent of K, 1, 3 grader;
Jeanette Lukens, Para
Alex DeMille, Teacher
Jack Davis - 4th year in the SCC - Kiddos in K and 3.
Joey McNamee, parent of 1st and 4th graders
Lindsey Jefferies, parent to 2nd grader and 1st grader
Matt, parent of 3rd grader, substitute teacher
Bri Deleon - parent
Ania Matynia - parent
Emily Booth, parent to students in magnet 4th grade and neighborhood 1st grade.
Sean Slack- 1st grader parent and future kindergarten student
Approve Last Meeting Minutes – Will approve March and April minutes next month.

Reports
- Principal’s Report
  o Short because of spring break
  o Art night is on the 20th. Including live talent show. Scrambling to put up student art. Returning to how it was before COVID. Hoping for good weather.
  o Mr. Craner’s 6th graders and last year’s 7th graders were bussed out to the aquarium for a field trip. Recognized for the work on the brine shrimp project. Plaque at the aquarium
  o International fundraiser underway. For every $250 raised, a plot of land can be purchased. Cool facts about Uganda and photographs in the hall by the cafeteria. Kids can see who is benefiting. Had $500 raised so far. Having fun with it.

- SIC Report
  o Talent show is coming up on the day of the 20th. Great Shakeout follows the show. Early release at 1.
  o 21st is the final at home learning day.
  o District approval for an additional FTE. Will impact next year’s numbers positively.
  o Discussed parameters around calling indoor recess. Lunch is such a long period that indoor recess for the first group at 10:45 might not be appropriate for the last group at 1. Ice on the blacktop is a safety issue. Air Quality is determined by Utah.air.gov. AQI and Temperature are factors that must be complied with. Reminded teachers that they need to wear bright orange vests because it makes them easy to identify. Reminded teachers to bring out walkie talkies.
  o Discussed testing and how to successfully use headphones. A smaller earpiece seems most comfortable.
  o Computer lab and library rotations will not continue during testing time. One more week of those.
  o Joey asks if next year’s lunch schedule will be the same? - Next year will be back to pre-COVID schedule, so there will be an overlap between classes. Reduces the time that kids would be on the playground together. Currently lunch time takes 2.5 hours. April and Nicole got food handler permits so they can pitch in. Hopefully they will get another staff member.
  o Will kids have more time to eat? Kids say they don’t have enough time to eat. - District policy says they must have 20 minutes to eat. Kids can’t be in line for more than 7 minutes. They also have 15 minutes of recess time.

- PTA Report
  o Doing a lot of work to get ready for STEM fair. May 6th 11 – 2. Looking for volunteers to give demonstrations. Currently have 13 vendors. Need a few more.
    Trying to put a planetarium in the gym.
    Most of it will be outside. Burritos and cotton candy.
  o Looking for photos for the yearbook. Hoping folks can pay $5 but everyone will be provided one.
Helping with bake sale at Art Night.
Bounce houses are not allowed by The District but they are working with the company to find other activities for future events.
Have PTA VP and Secretary assigned for next year. Looking for more officers.
Emerson logo contest next year to have one t-shirt designed by a student next year.

Discussion of District Boundary Changes and School Closures

- Jill asks what April’s involvement has been.
  - April was trained in the process and has seen the PowerPoint that we will see tonight. We are in area 4. Looked at school and student counts in each area.
  - Brian’s role is to gather information.
  - Encouraging people to make comments on the website. Comments will be printed and given to every board member.
    - https://saltlakedistrict.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bm7M6vIXQLQQAHc
  - Joey will have a meeting with Bryan and then he will do a walk through.

- Angela asks if they are still considering closing 10 schools? - April thinks it is still under consideration, but she has heard 4 – 6.

Presentation by Brian Conley on the District Boundary Study

- Brian Conley joined from The District. Brian is the Boundaries and Planning Director, which is a new job appointed by the Superintendent. Brian was a principal in the district for 20 years. Served on SCC committees. The Board will make ultimate decisions on this. Many people think that the process is designed to save money, but the focus is on the needs of students. Wants to give people an understanding of why they are doing this.
- 18% decrease in students K - 12 (-4,446) over the past 10 years because housing has become more expensive and the families that are moving in have smaller families. Some went to charter schools but not many.
- Enrollment projections were created in 2017. Estimated 10,033 students for this year. We have 9602. Projected to lose more than 250 over the next 5 years. Hoping downward trend is leveling off.
- Projected to lose 250 more students over the next 5 years.
- 12 factors from board policy G-5 will be considered when making decisions:
  - Community input – online comments and 4 community meetings.
  - Student safety – Some streets are busier and have safety considerations.
  - Transportation – Emerson currently has 6 buses.
  - Demographics – At Emerson 30% are students of color. 19% Students with disabilities.
  - School Enrollment – Emerson has 470 students currently.
  - Facility Capability and Design - Built in 1978 on 3.2 acres for 550 students.
  - Geographic Features
Special Programs – Emerson has BTS, Special Ed HUB, DLI Magnet and Neighborhood ELP

Financial Implications – We need the right number of schools for the necessary number of classes.

Student Educational Opportunities & Academic Performance - School Improvement Plan indicates where we are academically.

School Feeder Patterns – Clayton and East

Federal, state or court mandates - Recent state legislative audit recommends that all schools should be reviewed.

- Finding the right size for each grade in each school offers flexibility by having multiple teachers per grade and reducing split classes.
- When schools are too small there are fewer parents and less effective PTAs and SCCs and fewer land trust dollars.

The school district has been divided into four areas for study:
  - Area 1: 7 elementary schools. Need 5 or 6 schools.
  - Area 2: 5 elementary schools. Need 3 or 4
  - Area 3: 7 elementary schools. Need 4 or 5
  - Area 4: 8 Schools. Emerson, Hawthorne and Wittier are magnet schools. Need 6 or 7.

Looking at boundary changes and school closures for not next year but the following year in all areas.

Timeline:
  - March – May - Meet with SCC and have community meetings.
  - May – June – Meet with boundary options committee.
  - August – October – Board will make a plan.
  - January 2024 – Decision will be made.

Sending Comments is important. They will be seen directly by all board members. Complete by Memorial Day weekend.

Questions:
- Leah asks how this scales to middle and high schools? - Neighboring districts have been engaged in this process for a long time. We are behind in doing a district wide survey. Secondary schools will be in the spotlight the following year. Middle school populations are around 650 – 700 students/school across eight schools but with different grade structures. No talk about restructuring High Schools. Should there be a high school west of 300 W? High schools average about 2000 students.
- Comments are limited to 700 characters. How can we get longer comments to the board? - Brian did not know that there was a limit and will follow up. Brian also has a meeting with school administrators and SCC chair, if there are additional questions.
- Can we submit comments more than once? - Brian thinks so but will find out.
- Steven asks if what happens with the closed school properties is part of the scope of the study? He thinks it should be one of the considerations. - Past practice (20 years ago) is that closed schools remained district property and have been rented out to charter schools. Brian currently doesn’t know what the board will decide about that. It has not been part of the study so far.
Emily asks if the goal is 500 students per school how does that translate to students per classroom? - Brian thinks that there are currently the right number of classrooms, but they are not distributed correctly among schools. There should be 20 – 23 students per class in lower elementary, 27 – 28 in upper elementary. School administrators will decide on the correct number of classrooms per grade in their school.

Is the number of students per classroom set by the state? – Brian thinks it is set by the district. District numbers are usually a bit lower than State averages. Staffing ratios are set at 25:1 in lower elementary and 28:1 in the upper grades.

Jill asks if work is being done to study how the special programs will be affected by the changes? Joey adds that she feels like all of the special programs at Emerson provide a lot of choice for how her children can be successful. - The special programs are one of the 12 considerations, and the board will be seeking input from specialists like the director or supervisors of special education, teaching and learning and transportation etc. When options are given to board members, the impacts to special programs will be given. Services will always be provided for students who need them but where and how may shift. The Board will decide how programs get distributed. Please give comments about these programs.

Jack asks, if a school doesn’t close but the boundary changes will currently enrolled students be required to change schools? Boundaries will change and that may happen. What happens when an existing student is no longer in the boundary is something that needs to be considered. What will the protocol need to be? The board should make a decision before open enrollment, which will help but there isn’t an answer yet. It may make sense to keep schools at 450 so they can take current students who are now out of bounds.

Thank you, Brian, for your presentation.

Wrap Up
Joey provided her email address to take comments. Please have comments by April 21st.

April thinks it’s a good idea for Joey to be the point of contact and Lucy thinks it was a good summary of points to address in our comments.

Leah thinks that this information is hard to find and understand in District communications and suggests outreach at Art and STEM night. Are we allowed to do that? April thinks that is okay because the information is on the District website and they want comments. Emily will find out if we can use the PTA sandwich boards and Leah will mock up some posters with QR codes to the district information and survey.

Next meeting May 10, 2023