

Cyprus Community Council Meeting

MINUTES 11/15/2012

ATTENDEES	Tracy Atkinson, Greg Henson, Stephen Hess, Beverly Shelley, Melissa Smith, Dawn Warner, Elizabeth Weight, Kelly Lamont, Jolene Winder.
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Pre-Agenda: Liz Weight will be the scribe.

Agenda topics

TOPIC 1	Update on SSAP Plan Approval – Stephen Hess
REPORT	The Cyprus plan has been submitted and school board approval is pending.

TOPIC 2	District Council Report – Jolene Winder
REPORT	<p><u>Item 1:</u> The school board is considering a new plan to offer fifth and sixth grade instrumental music programs before and/or after school, removing them from the regular school schedule. This would affect fourteen programs, the school communities, and the teaching staff in the current programs. The reported motivation is to provide regular classes more uninterrupted time for teaching Core subjects and meet the requirements for general music instruction.</p>
DISCUSSION	<p>The proposed arrangement would definitely affect not only the music education in the elementary schools, it would impact the secondary instrumental programs in the networks. During the time when instrumental music students are excused, shouldn't all students be receiving instruction to meet general music requirements? The questionnaire sent only to elementary students' parents was very limited, asking only if parents would participate in an extra-hour program, but not addressing or soliciting any concerns. Parents were not informed of the full implications of agreeing with "the option" suggested. The manner of presentation and the survey process create the impression that the rescheduling is a step to intentionally eliminate instrumental music from Granite elementary schools.</p>
DECISION AND ACTION	<p>Individual parents need to communicate their concerns and questions to school board members. This council voted to deliver the following statement to the school board in their meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2012: "Noting the concerns of parents about the proposal to remove elementary school instrumental music from the regular school schedule to before/after school, the Cyprus High Community Council supports the idea that instrumental music continue to be taught during the school day and the general music curriculum be taught during the same time that instrumental music students are released."</p>
REPORT AND DISCUSSION	<p><u>Item 2:</u> Objections have been expressed about a book being taught at one of the junior highs in the district. This particular concern does not involve a school in the Cyprus network. Objections have occurred before, and Granite District has a thorough review system for placing titles on an approved list for teaching. Teachers are advised to teach only from that list and to invite parents with objections to discuss options for meeting learning objectives. Blacking out words or sections from a text by a teacher or student is not considered an option.</p>

TOPIC 3	Facilities
REPORT AND DISCUSSION	<p><u>Tennis Court Renovation:</u> If the weather permits, the improvements will proceed. Extra considerations are required, due to the placement of the light poles.</p> <p><u>Lighting Update:</u> Bids are currently being accepted. Then a schedule for replacement of lights throughout the building will be determined.</p> <p><u>Air Conditioning Update:</u> Temperature regulation is a huge issue. Contractors are in the process of regulating temperatures. The administration and district are aware of the problems. Staff are requested to report temperatures in classrooms and other school areas.</p>

TOPIC 4	9th Through 12th Grade Alignment
REPORT	Postponed. The discussion for report is continuing.

TOPIC 5A	UCAS Report – Principal Steve Hess
REPORT	New rating system with deference to USEA

TOPIC 5B	UCAS (Utah Comprehensive Accountability System) Report – Principal Steve Hess
REPORT AND DISCUSSION	<p>Testing: Move to adaptive testing. CRTs are currently being used to rate Utah schools, and the Cyprus High rating on CRT scales is low. EXPLANATION: Cyprus was the only school which actually taught the math concepts coursework in the state-adopted Common Core and in conjunction with the district-developed pacing guide. The current test, CRT, does not test the math concepts which Cyprus taught. New Acuity benchmark tests are being developed with input from Cyprus teachers. Attached: Printout from state website where ranking and test results are posted. https://cognos1.schools.utah.gov/cognos10/cgi-bin/cognosisapi.dll</p> <p>CONCERN: There is no clarification about the appearance of low performance in the rating report to the public. Cyprus patrons and other observers will be misinformed. The council wants the community to be aware that Cyprus is ahead of the teaching schedule and the circumstances of testing that have reflected negatively so far during the transition period.</p>
POSSIBLE ACTIONS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statements to patrons and others, such as town councils and local press. 2. Report information for the Cyprus Newsletter: During a transition period to new curriculum, guides, and testing, Cyprus has been teaching the new math core curriculum, but students were tested on the previous curriculum. The positives of adapting the new curriculum far outweigh the negatives, but in the process, Cyprus High was inaccurately ranked in comparison with other schools.

NEXT MEETING	Monday, January 14, 2013 2:30 (No meeting in December, 2012)
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