

Driggs Elementary School Community Council Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7:45 A.M. in the front conference room of Driggs Elementary School

Meeting attendance:

- Community council members present: Tayler Khater, Cameron Shellum, Walter Codes, Heidi Baer, Gabriella Friel, Paul Stuk, and Jake Smith
- Community council members absent: Elliot Sorenson
- Others present: Julie Jackson (Granite School Board Representative to Driggs), Drew Quinn (Holladay City Council), and Trudy Jorgenson-Price (Holladay Library)

Written minutes of council meeting:

Motion to approve the meeting notes from October by Cameron and seconded by Paul. All council members voted in favor.

Mr. Khater: as a refresher the state land trust money is coming from property taxes, which is why we have a school community council. The community council is the voice for the money that the community has given to the school. This year the amount is \$59,000 and next year it will probably be about the same. The money should fund in January.

Mr. Khater: one option for the use of state land trust money is one paraprofessional at about \$20,000 and half of an FTE (full time educator) at about \$35,000 for a total of \$55,000. Note that the FTE would have to be a brand-new starting year teacher. If not a brand-new teacher that \$35,000 would be more, possibly exceeding the allotted money.

Mr. Khater showed some aggregate data of how every school in the district spent the allotted money this year. The analysis done by Aaron Wilson and Joe Bradley at the district shows that there isn't much of a difference in how the lowest and highest performing schools spend the money. It's basically the same.

Mr. Khater: the conclusion from this data is that it doesn't really matter what we spend the money on, but it's the strategic use of those materials. He noted that some of the lower performing schools are title one schools and they get a substantial amount of money that is more than the land trust money. In some cases, in the data this results in higher amounts of money spent on supplies, but that it doesn't make much of a difference in the performance compared with higher performing schools. The data also shows that paraprofessionals are a good place to spend our money and that supplies, other than what the school and teacher's needs, are not really going to help that much.

Paul asked about the district being against spending money on staffing. Mr. Khater clarified that the problem is if a school loses an FTE using any funding to keep that FTE probably isn't a good idea because it's like "kicking the can down the road". The teacher is on notice and causes stress.

Mr. Khater: the data from the district also shows a higher amount spent for social workers in title one schools because the title one funding requires schools to have more supports in place for social and emotional health. Particularly gang and suicide prevention. It also helps with utilities for families that can't heat their homes.

Mr. Khater: Currently ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund) pays for two full-time paraprofessionals one FTE. Note that ESSER funding will not be available next year. TSSA pays for two full-time paraprofessionals and Land Trust Program pays for a part-time paraprofessional and half of an FTE teacher (supports the full-time social worker). Without ESSER for next year one option for using TSSA and Land Trust Program is to keep two paraprofessionals and half of an FTE for a teacher. Another option is two full-time paraprofessionals from TSSA and two full-time paraprofessionals from Land Trust and part-time parent.

Julie asked if the paraprofessionals must be paid for by the individual schools and Mr. Khater replied yes.

Mr. Khater: It will be difficult to maintain a full-time social worker next year with the available funding. But if that is determined to be very important, we can look to see what we can do with our options with the Land Trust Program. 0.5 FTE support is going to run about \$50,000, which is most of the Land Trust Program budget.

Mr. Khater: most important step towards knowing what is important is teacher surveys. Teachers are the most central to the resources and their opinion matters. By the way, most of the software programs that we've had over the past couple of years will have to go away.

Someone asked a question about the 0.5 FTE and how that affects class size. Mr. Khater replied that Driggs uses that for a part-time teacher, but she's not coded as a teacher, she's coded as an interventionalist. In theory, she's a highly skilled paraprofessional. She's very experienced and so a little more expensive. A reduction in that 0.5 FTE would affect teacher support and not affect class sizes.

Mr. Khater: all this information to get the council thinking about how to spend the money. We'll spend more time with this starting in January. He will share the results of the teacher survey in January as well.

Fence and field issues update. Mostly positive feedback regarding keeping the school locked down during the day. Most people have been good about cleaning up after their dogs except for one person. Police have been involved but can't enforce dogs on property because they don't have jurisdiction. Large sign acquired and being placed at the northeast entrance. Granite district police need to deal with situations like this because it's Granite District property. Once gates are installed, they can be closed, but there needs to be one entrance, which is the northeast corner. On Sunday gates can be open for people to walk to the church.

Cameron: video sent in last email to council about how land trust money can be spent. One thing that is included is very specific language about leadership, which is really intended for Junior Achievement. The cost has come down to \$500 and usually is covered by a parent. Paul mentions funds for science experiments and science supplies.

Paul asked when we can evaluate how this year's spending has gone, Mr. Khater said probably not until January.

Driggs is the highest school in entire district for growth in ELA and math.

Meeting adjourned.