

## Driggs Elementary School Community Council Meeting

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:45 A.M. in the front conference room of Driggs Elementary School

Meeting attendance:

- Community council members present: Tayler Khater, Heidi Baer, Gabriella Friel, Walter Codes, Paul Stuk, Elliot Sorenson, and Jake Smith
- Community council members absent: Cameron Shellum
- Others present: Hellen Haley (University of Utah student)

Written minutes of council meeting:

Motion to approve the meeting notes from October; all council members voted in favor of approval.

Bike rack. Elliot had emailed some bike rack options to the community council. One of the options was to add a concrete pad at the bottom of the catwalk next to the north field entrance and that means going through the district for approval. This could take a long time and Mr. Khater suspects that the maintenance director for the district will resist the idea because of the maintenance involved. It's also more expensive than the other options. Mr. Khater prefers the least expensive option, which is buying a short bike rack that fits on the existing concrete pad next to the entrance. He also likes the idea of having another bike rack because of flexibility and future options. The school would pay for a new bike rack, not land trust money. Instead of buying a new rack we could cut the existing long bike rack next to the school and use that instead of buying a new short bike rack or try to find a bike rack in the district surplus warehouse. Another option is to make not changes to anything and work with students and parents to have the students walk their bike up the sidewalk to the existing large bike rack and create an expectation for this procedure. Ms. Baer noted that when her children attended Driggs that this was the expectation. One of the problems is that students are not supposed to ride their bikes on school property. Mr. Khater noted that next year there is a safe routes grant that we can apply for to pay for a larger concrete pad by the entrance.

Safe routes. Holladay City received another grant that will pay for sidewalks on both sides of 2700 E. Mr. Khater will check to see if the plan is still same to start on the north side and will also check if they will do both sides at the same time. The school must submit a safe routes report to the state and the district every year. It's fairly straight forward and includes things about how to keep the students safe. It's mostly the same each year with some things added or changed. However, next year the report will have some major changes because of the new sidewalks. For now, not a lot has changed. Everything that is part of the safety plan has been implemented and the city has done everything we asked for. Holladay City and the state would like us to do another big push in the spring for walking and riding to school. One thing that we should consider is thinking ahead about the crosswalk at 4500 S because it's a very busy street with a steep grade.

Property gates. Gates have been confirmed and the school does not need to pay for them. The district is paying for them, which is a great deal because normally the school would have to pay for them.

Student academic performance update. Middle of the year testing will end on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Khater went through the growth numbers with the district superintendent recently comparing last year to this year. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> have maintained academic growth and a high rate. K, 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> are down year over year. This doesn't reflect on teacher effort. Our kindergarten started at 93% reading proficiency, which is the highest in the state. This means the growth rate is difficult because it starts so high. Kindergarten should jump up in January. KEEP in Kindergarten and Acadience. Need to wait for middle of the year results before coming to any definite conclusions about academic growth. Driggs growth rate is high, but lower than it was last year. High performing

schools have a hard time maintaining a high level. Two of our literacy paraprofessionals are becoming student teachers, which is great for them, and it means Driggs needs to hire two more in the middle of the year, which can be difficult. We may see some performance issues in January and February without their help and without a replacement. Mr. Khater says we really need a full-time literacy coach. Most of the schools in the district gets a full-time literacy coach from the district, but Driggs performance is so high that we only get a part-time. Literacy coach is a teacher, not a paraprofessional. If we hire a literacy coach (using land trust money for example) the current one loses the 0.5 from the district. Parents can encourage the district (surveys, district community councils, PTA, etc.) to give every school in the district a full-time literacy coach.

School social worker and psychologist. The district funds two days per week for the psychologist for most schools including Driggs. Driggs pays for the 0.5 of the social worker with the understanding initially that she would teach things like mindfulness classes. The supervisor at the district determined of the summer that social workers would not be able to teach classes like mindfulness. This is why we have a paraprofessional that does a mindfulness class. The social worker does contract with kids, takes care of behavioral issues, and not students with IEPs. With social workers they get 0.5 from the district and the school can pay for the other 0.5 to make them full-time at the school. They don't lose the 0.5 like the literacy coach. Our social worker has been paid by ESSER so next year either the school needs to pay the 0.5 or the social worker splits time between two schools. If land trust money is used it would take most of the money to pay for 0.5 time. The caseload at Driggs is relatively low, so the school might be okay with a part-time social worker. We will have a behavioral health assistant (BHA) that provides basic services that a social worker does and can fill in when the social worker isn't there. The BHA is not a paraprofessional, they are a licensed social worker with the state of Utah.

Funding options for next year. The school has money next year for two paraprofessionals and either a full-time social worker or a half-time interventionist. Or we can have four paraprofessionals. Currently we have psychologist (2 days/week paid by district), social worker (full-time), BHA (29 hrs, district pays for), and an interventionist. Most schools have a half-time social worker and they schedule them with the BHA for full coverage. Interventionist is a highly trained and effective teacher that can support teachers in their classes. There is a bit of overlap with paraprofessionals if they are effective and trained well. Driggs is one of the only schools in the district with a half-time interventionist, most schools don't get one or the school pays for an instructional coach. The psychologist works two days per week and that is enough for the needs of Driggs. The special education teacher handles IEPs and 504s and they have four paraprofessionals (paid by the district) to help. Parents at Driggs understand the importance of advocating for their children, which means Driggs has a very high ratio of professional help for students. Having another adult in the classroom helps a lot and changes the class dynamic for the better. Driggs currently has nine paraprofessionals. For next year the four social worker paraprofessionals do not change. There will be changes to the other five because of the loss of ESSER funding. Two are paid by ESSER (~\$102k) and two are paid TSSA (~\$50k, decided by principal). Land trust is paying for 0.5 social worker and ESSER is paying for 0.5 of interventionist. As a community council we need to coordinate spending land trust funds with TSSA funds to spend strategically. The teacher survey goes out today and needs to be finished by the 29<sup>th</sup> so that we know what is important to the teachers in regard to spending land trust money. We can look at the results of that survey in January.