

Community Council Minutes January 11, 2016
Eisenhower Jr. High

Attending: Mark Ellermeier, Kammie Jones, James Earl, Sue Weierman, Rebecca Riggs, Betsy Valora, Melisa Pehrson, Michelle Christensen, Kitahna Christensen, DeAnn Neal, Corrine Kendall, Juli Balhorn

Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm

Update on the possible AVID program

Principal Ellermeier gave us an update on the AVID program. It is a program aimed at middle-of-the-road kids: GPA 2.5-3.0. In high school, the participants are required to take a certain number of honor or AP classes. The program implements WICR strategies. Granite Park is a site school for AVID. AVID is a class that participants take, and we would start with one class and go from there, but we would also focus on the principles in our school culture.

The cost for the first year is about \$18,000. There is an annual fee of \$3600 which the district would pay. Material fees of \$4500. We would be required to send 8 faculty members to a summer institute implementation program at \$725 per person, plus travel expenses, which would total around \$10,000.

Council members wondered if we do the training in August, can we use this year's and next year's money from the trust land funds? We will look into it. SLCC gave a discount to Taylorsville High (an AVID school) – maybe us? The Principal will talk to Gear-up to see if we can get a discount. Faculty from Taylorsville High who are serving on this board love the AVID program. Possibly we could take a team to Granite Park to observe how the program is working there.

If we approve the buying and implementing of the AVID program, Principal Ellermeier would like to start this program next school year. He asked if we were on board with the idea and if he should pursue funding options. Sue asked what we would use the \$10,000 for if we don't use it here. Answer: the money is for professional development and we don't have another specific use for it yet. Corrine asked what would be the cost for subsequent years. Answer: Granite district would pay the annual fee, but there would be an additional training cost to send a couple of teachers down to the institute program each year. The cost is unknown, but far less than the first year. How would we implement it here? Answer: We would start with a 9th grade class, but the strategies we learn will be implemented school wide. Classes are held at grade level. For example, Taylorsville has a 10th grade class, an 11th grade class, etc. Betsy motioned to take steps to find out more about possible funding and looking deeper into program and its possibilities at Eisenhower. Sue 2nd the motion, vote was unanimous yes.

Update on the Boundary Decision concerning Granite Park kids for next year

The district has made the decision and it is a done deal. 90-100 kids will be added to our school (mostly incoming 7th graders) next school year, but we expect our school enrollment numbers to be about the same as this year. We will find out the FTE in March. Our school is full and at capacity, so we will not be doing new special permits at Eisenhower. Current students on permit will be able to stay. Students with siblings currently attending can contact Eisenhower about their options.

Update on ESL aide position

Sally (current ESL aid) and Justin (new ISS guy) are paid with Trust Land funds. Mason (new hire) will be full time, so we won't have any more money to spend. Sally will need help for testing, but we are not looking to fill a position anymore. We are not adding a part time science teacher. The current teachers have stepped up to help out 2nd semester.

Look at 2017-2018 Calendar options

Sue said it is posted online, but she can't see a place to take the survey or submit your opinion. Corrine and DeAnn said they took the survey a couple of months ago. They felt the statements on the survey were skewed towards option A. We took a vote and about half of us voted that we preferred option A.

Noise level at Concerts

Corrine expressed her disappointment at the noise level at the Christmas performances at Eisenhower, particularly at the choir concert. The worst was from chatting parents during songs. At Taylorsville, Mrs. T makes announcements at the beginning about what behavior is expected from the audience. If there are problems, she will stop the concert and address the issue from the stage. This seems to work well there. Mrs. Roh makes a similar announcement at the beginning of performances, and at first behavior is good, but then deteriorates. The council agreed that it would be good to stop our concerts to address any issues.

Future PTA President

This is Michelle Christensen's last year as PTA president, so we need a new president. In order to qualify as Pres or VP, you need to have a child attending Eisenhower. Michelle has a flash drive that has all her information on it that she will give to the new president. We need to get the word out. On Feb.18 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium we will have the Eisenhower Showcase. Michelle can talk about it there. We also need to talk about the honors and GT programs at the Showcase. We should have teachers mention the PTA opening to parents at parent teacher conferences, and also at the Cottage meeting.

Murray Chick-fil-A

Corrine wondered why we are partnered with Murray instead of Taylorsville Chick-fil-A. Answer: Joanie knows the manager, and he does a ton of stuff for our school – a lot more than most people are aware of. We had a relationship with them before the Taylorsville location opened. Taylorsville location partners with several other locations,

while Murray location is only partnered with a couple of other schools. We get more help and attention than we would if we switched, and we have a great relationship with the manager.

Reading Program Class

DeAnn talked about how we did away with the reading class and combined it with English class. Recently her students could not read and decode what they read. The article was on a 5th grade level, so not difficult. Can we come up with something to encourage reading? The kids need reading-to-comprehend skills.

Our SRI scores show that 1/3 of students are above and advanced, 1/3 are middle of the road. And 1/3 are beginning readers. Amy has been talking to English teachers about reading strategies. Sue mentioned that 5 years ago the teachers used to meet once a month to decide one strategy to focus on, and vocabulary words they would focus on. DeAnn said the vocabulary words were very helpful. If we could focus on some vocab words each month that would be used in multiple classes, that would be helpful.

Mr. Craig has instantaneous feedback in his class with the use of the smartboard and chromebooks. We have clickers to use with the chromebooks. Kids don't want to look dumb, and it helps them to see the steps on the whiteboard to help them figure out the problem solution. Could we figure out a similar system to encourage reading comprehension?

Next Community Council Meeting

The 2nd Monday in February is parent teacher conferences. No one had anything pressing that needed to be discussed or decided next month, so we decided to skip the February meeting and wait to meet until March.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Next meeting March 14, 2016 in the Media Center