

Gourley Elementary Community Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

The meeting came to order at 3:30 p.m. Brandon Jones, Paul Stoker, and Allesen Peck were in attendance. Council member Jennifer Robles asked to be excused.

The first item on the agenda was the council roster for this school year as well as vacancies on the council. Principal Peck made a motion to elect Brandon Jones as the council chair for the school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stoker. The vote was unanimous in favor of Mr. Jones serving as council chair. Principal Peck made a second motion that Paul Stoker be elected as the council vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones and the motion was unanimously approved.

Principal Peck reviewed with the council that there were two vacancies on the council and that candidacy declaration forms had been sent home with all students. She also reported that all forms were due in the office today by 3:00 p.m. and that two forms had been returned. The two parents returning declaration of candidacy forms were Kimberly Edwards and Chanel Tanner. As the council has two empty seats and only two parents have indicated an interest in the positions, a motion was made to place Kimberly Edwards and Chanel Tanner on the council. Thus, no fall election will be necessary. Chairman Jones will contact the two parents and invite them to sit on the council.

The council next reviewed the school's emergency preparedness plan and bullying/suicide prevention plan and gave their approval on both plans.

Principal Peck next brought up the topic of Halloween. She shared her observations that not all families in the neighborhood celebrate this holiday. Some parents are keeping students home on Halloween, some are requesting different activities for their students rather than the traditional Halloween Parade and class parties, and she also noted that some students are coming without costumes on that day due to financial constraints or lack of understanding of the celebration. Principal Peck also shared with the council that many schools are forgoing Halloween parades during the school day and choosing to hold community events during the evening hours instead so that only those who choose participate. The council discussed the issue of Halloween and determined that the best course of action would be to survey the community to get a sense of what our patrons would like to see in regards to this holiday. Ms. Peck will create the survey asking parent to vote in favor of the traditional Halloween parade and class parties during the school day or to hold a Halloween parade and family celebration as an evening event. Chairman Jones volunteered to sit at a survey table both evenings of SEP conference next week to encourage parents to give their input. The council also determined they would hold an additional meeting on Wednesday, October 1st, to review the results of the survey and to welcome and officially appoint new members to the council. It was also decided that the PTA board and representatives from the school leadership team be invited to the meeting to help make the determination on how Halloween will be handled at the school this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.