Community Council Meeting
Hillsdale Elementary School
April 25, 2016

Hillsdale Community Council Members in attendance: Ethan Zaugg – Chair, Rita Nyiramahirwe – Co-chair, Marla Wharton, Kelli Lookinland, Elizabeth Evans, Annika Hodges, Jana Rupp

Minutes

1. Discussion about the Community Council’s preference for the District Art Specialist for next school year

   - We already have I Can Do Ballet West for fifth grade and we do not have the space to teach dance to all grade levels.
   - Community Council discussed schoolwide drama and music. The music specialist currently teaches classes for PLC time. She teaches theory and would like to block out time so that she could teach consecutive lessons. This will make computer instruction a block also and the students could get a keyboarding series as well. We won’t have to double up classes for specialists next year since we only will have five classes per grade level. Community Council chose to try drama next year. A motion was made and supported. Marla will work on the schedule.

2. Emergency Preparedness Packs

   - Ethan will talk with Kelli Lawrence to see if the Student Council can help assemble the packs. The contents for the bags are here and ready to assemble. The room number will be written on the bags so that they remain in the room and don’t go with the teacher if teachers move. Ethan will contact Kaitlyn Jack to see if she would like to be involved in assembling the emergency preparedness packs. Each child could bring a momento and a candy bar to personalize the bags and at the end of the year the items from home can be taken back home.

3. Jana Rupp – parking lot issues

   - There are a lot of patrons dropping off students in the front who should be using the back drop off area. Jana referred to a map of the parking lot that she had prepared for the meeting. She suggested issuing colored parking passes to patrons with preschool and kindergarten children. It was explained that we can ask people not to use the front parking lot but we cannot give
tickets to people who don’t have tags. The question remains concerning what can be done about people who disregard the school parking procedures. We discussed if it would be worth our time to organize parents to help with the parking. Jana has a list of parents who will help monitor out in the parking lot. We can try using parents to monitor the situation, but we don’t have any way to really enforce the rules. If parents volunteer to monitor the parking, they should understand that they will not always be respected or obeyed by the drivers. The parents will not have any power to enforce the parking procedures.

- The sixth grade safety patrol role in the parking lot in the morning is to assist parents by escorting children to the playground. The safety patrol students will wear orange vests and stand at the corner of the parking lot to help children get to the playground. Kelli Lookinland will review the procedures with the safety patrol students. Marla will make a handout to explain the procedures to the parents.

- It was suggested that after school, patrons with kindergarten and preschool students would use color coded parking passes to expedite the parking. The kindergarten and preschool patrons would then pick up and be gone by the time the first through sixth grade students are dismissed. Marla reminded the Community Council that the front drop off zone needs to remain as a drop off zone only and that it cannot be used as a parking area while patrons go into the building to pick up students.

- The handicapped parking areas at the front of the school will be relocated to the parking stalls closest to the crosswalk.

- Stephen Powell in the district office is working on a video or some kind of communication for parents. Marla will email Stephen Powell to further discuss any information he has regarding the parking issues. Ethan will call Don Adams again to review the issues.

- Jana suggested that the recycling bin in the front parking area could be moved to open up an additional parking stall. It was discussed that if it were to be moved, patrons would try to come in the back and use it. Marla will call Green Fiber to inquire about the usage of the bin and what funds it is bringing in.

4. Discussion of preschool restroom area

- Jana brought up the issue that there are no preschool classroom restrooms. The preschoolers are using the restrooms in the hall along with other students. Jana mentioned that the preschoolers are uncomfortable with the
restrooms. It was discussed that preschool teachers are required to monitor the preschool students in the restroom. There is a full time teacher and a full time aide to help with this district policy. The bigger need for classroom restrooms is for the kindergarten all day students to have restrooms available. The preschool teachers have not mentioned restroom related issues.

5. Fundraising

- The school earned $5,200 from the Fun Run this year. We think that its success will continue to grow in the future. It was suggested that the Fun Run could be held twice a year since it was so successful. The consensus from the Community Council members was that holding the Fun Run twice a year would detract from the PTA chocolate fundraiser and put an added burden on the Fun Run donors. Annika would like the PTA chocolate fundraiser to be held on its own as it has been. Patrons are also encouraged to give donations if that is what they prefer.

The next Community Council meeting will be May 23, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. on the stage. School staff and patrons are invited to attend.