

MJH Community Council Minutes:

December 15, 2014

In attendance at the meeting: Emily Pope, Katie Stout, Mardee Allen, Dawn Hauser, Robin Larsen, Tonje Sielatycki, and Diane Castro. A quorum was present for the meeting. Guests attending the meeting: Shaun McNeil for the START Committee, Scott Bell and Chris Griffiths to present School Safety and Bullying, and Ben Horsley from GSD.

Emily Pope greeted everyone and Robin Larsen read the minutes from the previous meeting. There were several minor changes to the minutes and then the minutes were approved.

Scott Bell and Chris Griffiths presented the MJH safety procedures for fire drills and school evacuation. If a long term evacuation was necessary the students would be moved to the LDS Stake Center located just North of the school parking lot. The Safety Committee meets throughout the year reviewing all safety procedures and considering any needed changes or improvements. The First Responders will continue to train and signs will be made to indicate who the First Responders are in the building. Cameras are under consideration for the front doors and possibly a buzzer for people entering the building after school starts.

The school bullying survey indicated that most students did not believe that bullying was a big problem at MJH. Ninety-one students were randomly surveyed with the following results: 83/91 said they had never witnessed bullying and 90% said they would walk away and tell an adult. This indicated that students had appropriate responses to deal with bullying situations. The following methods can be used by students to report bullying: Put a note in the Buddy Box located in the counseling center or tell a counselor or other adult. Positive behaviors are rewarded with Tiger Cash (PBIS). The Matheson Way is reinforced and reviewed in Class Meetings, Guidance Curriculum, and Teen Forums. The district has a three-pronged test to establish bullying behavior.

The district will conduct a survey by an outside organization sometime in February to determine the next step in the Cyprus Network reconfiguration. Community Council meetings will be held to inform the public and answer questions about the possible reconfiguration that would move the 9th graders from Matheson and Brockbank to Cyprus High School. All stakeholders will be surveyed to get a broad perspective on the proposed changes. Ben Horsley answered questions about the survey.

Shaun McNeil spoke about the continuing efforts of the START Committee to look at various ways schools are using Advisory time to help students be more successful in school. Committee members visited Brockbank to get new ideas. The goal is to conform Advisory to GSD policy and make it as helpful to students as possible. It is possible that Advisory will be moved to the end of the school day next year and the some flex time will be used to get students more help in the core subjects.

The meeting ended at 4:50 pm.