

Olympus Jr. High School Community Council Minutes

February 10, 2014

3:00pm, OJH Conference Room

In attendance: Carole Harris, Dustin Kempner, Scott Gregory, Gayle Engh, Tina Seastrand, Margit Caine, Katie Graham, Emily Ott, Jim Sheets, Steve Chard

Meeting begun: 3:00pm

- 1) Emily Ott discussed the Boundaries Report and shared the letter she drafted to Granite School Board of Education Members. The letter was read, approved, and signatures were gathered. Copies will be mailed to each School Board member via District Mail. Thank you, Emily.
- 2) Principal Harris' report: Culture Survey – A survey of OJH culture was circulated amongst students. The intent was to see if students feel safe and respected at school, or, harassed/stressed. Questions about behavior, respect, student/teacher interactions, bullying behavior, hallway safety, restroom behavior, lunch room atmosphere, etc. The counselors and Ms. Harris felt great about the positive student responses, drawing the conclusion that the vast majority of students feel safe in the OJHS environment. We still do have a Bully Text Line. The All For All went well. This is a long-standing tradition at OJH, now, the only school in the district which still runs it. Perhaps student interest is waning; but plans are to keep the fun tradition. Mrs. Shelby just had her baby last Friday. Mrs. Hoole will be her substitute M-Th, and another substitute teacher will cover Fridays. Ms. Harris submitted a request for extra pay for teacher Smart Board training under the Land Trust Plan Review. Various teachers are requesting that kind of training. Katie Graham will soon write a letter to the Land Trust Board explaining: a) how our school uses these funds b) how crucial these funds are to the betterment of programs and offerings at OJH c) emphasizing control remain at the local level, as different schools have different needs, and we like to control fund dispersal to our specific areas of need. When completed, the letter will be sent to our senators (Pat Jones and Patrice Arent).
- 3) PTSA is running well.
- 4) Jim Sheets brought up the issue of high schools in the Granite School District switching to four year schools (grades 9-12). He pointed out that the Jordan School District and the Salt Lake School District are already running 4 year high schools. Granger High School will soon convert to 4 year, while Kearns High School and Hunter High School will convert in one year. Cottonwood High School is discussing the matter. He wondered if Olympus High School or Skyline High

School plan to convert to 4 year schools. Discussion ensued. Superintendent Martin Bates has previously stated that this issue is “community driven.” It is not known if Olympus High School is large enough to make the change; but the extra size was built to accommodate the special programs at Olympus, not to host 9th grade students. We are not hearing much buzz in the community and concluded that there is not much interest for such a change at OHS. In high schools with 4 year programs, the feeder junior high school’s athletic programs are nearly destroyed. They basically become intra-mural sport offerings.

Margit Caine made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2014 meeting. Katie Graham seconded the motion and the voting was unanimous. Minutes approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Next Meeting – Monday, March 10th

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 14th, and May 12th. Dates to be revised as needed.

Addendum:

Email sent to Katie Graham on March 3, 2014

Dear Katie,

Please convey to the OJH Community Council my sincere thanks for sending this report to me. You have used the funds in areas that will enrich the academics of students at Olympus.

Thank you for your dedicated service.

Sincerely,

Sen. Patricia Jones