

Olympus Jr. High School Community Council Minutes

January 13, 2014

3:00pm, OJH Conference Room

In attendance: Scott Gregory, Gayle Engh, Jim Sheets, Mr. Chard, Ms. Harris, Emily Ott, Laura Pinnock, Katie Graham, Jennie Pinnock, Margit Caine Excused: Tina Seastrand

- 1) **Counselor's Corner:** Mr. Chard reported that schedule changes are going well for the new semester. Registration materials for next year are currently being prepared for the end of January or early February. College counselors and CCRS meetings are coming up. Health classes are soon to have a new suicide prevention segment. Computer Tech, Financial Literacy, and Fitness for Life were also mentioned.
- 2) **School Boundary Update** from Jennie Pinnock: School Board Member, Dan Lofgren wants more discussion on the matter of the Cottonwood Lane Boundary Proposal. It's a sensitive issue because Cottonwood High School has declining enrollment totaling near 200 kids between Taylorsville and Cottonwood boundary areas. About 20 of these students are from the Cottonwood Elementary boundary. As it stands, those families already "special permit" into their desired schools. But OJH is full. Ms. Harris had to turn down 23 special permits in August. As of now, 1-13-14, we are over our enrollment projection, so teachers have extra students with no \$ for them. (After October 1, we don't get funding for new/transfer students.) Dan Lofgren is seeking letters from each school's community council stating their opinions on the matter. Ms. Harris would like to plan on the Cottonwood/Walker Lane families, planning that those special permit students will be confirmed registrants at OJH. This will stabilize enrollment for regular and special education students. Jim Sheets made motion to write a letter of support for permanent boundary change. Katie Graham seconded it. Emily Ott will write the letter to "reinstate the old boundaries which included both Cottonwood and Walker Lanes." This is a neighborhood-driven, community-based issue.
- 3) **PTSA:** Laura Pinnock reports that all is well with Olympus Junior High PTSA. "Going great."
- 4) **Library Data:** Ms. Moody reports that per pupil circulation is down .7% over the last year due to new curriculum and testing demands. Library materials are aligned with the Utah Common Core. Over the past 5 years, circulation has tripled. Library promotions are being increased to help boost last year's numbers. Also, during upcoming parent/teacher conferences, a Book Fair will be held. All monies generated go directly to the library.
- 5) **Principal Carole Harris** shared the news that Mr. Rocky Lambourne will shortly be moving to Bonneville Junior High School. This news was met with loud groans and we love and respect Mr.

Lambourne! His last day will be at this week's end! Dusten Keppner will become OJH's new Assistant Principal and will officially begin on Tuesday, January 21, 2014. All present wished Mr. Lambourne well and thanked him for his years of service at OJH. Ms. Harris also praised our librarian, Jessica Moody, for her tremendous work in the Library. "In a few short years, she has done a phenomenal job turning the Library in the right direction." Ms. Harris also commented on the Common Assessments. OJH, Churchill Jr., and Wasatch Jr. are actively working in Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) breaking down the common core. The improved Technology is working well here. Mr. Gregory stated he can act at the end of a chapter to help a struggling student, rather than the end of a quarter. As a whole, teachers can catch kids in trouble sooner and work together to remedy the situation. This collaboration makes improvement quick, if not, immediate.

- 6) **School Land Trust:** Katie Graham mentioned her desire to know the best programs out there so we can best use our Trust monies. We discussed Mastery Connect – a program whereby teachers can use short-term or longer-term devices to see if students understand material taught. Mr. Gregory had reviewed it and thought it looked good. Katie Graham also thought our council should write a letter about the School Land Trust, expressing thanks and stating that Land Trust funds to specific schools is vital. She will draft a letter to be finished before our March 10, 2014 meeting.
- 7) **Minutes approved:** Jim Sheets made a motion to approve November 2013 minutes. Scott Gregory seconded it. Voting was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2014 at 3:00pm in the Principal's Conference Room. Other meetings for 2014 are as follows: March 10, April 14, and May 12. Dates to be revised as needed.