

## West Valley Elementary Community Council

Held: Thursday, October 2, 2014

Presiding Chair: Phillip Twede

Conducting: Amy Martz

Council Members Present:

Phillip Twede, Natalie Cooke, Mandee Cossa, and Amy Martz

Staff or Parents Present:

Mindy Pratt, Kerri Bauer, Martha Cruz, Cheryl Barbre, Kari Sharpe, and Maria VanAdrihem

Agenda:

- Community Council Candidate Declaration Forms
- Staffing Considerations

### **No Action Comments:**

1. Ms. Martz went over the 2014-2015 community council elections. Natalie Cooke, Mindy Pratt, Phillip Twede and Kerri Bauer completed declarations of candidacy and all have been voted in as the new West Valley Elementary Community Council members.

### **Action Items:**

1. Ms. Martz asked Philip Twede if he would like to continue his position as Community Council Chair. Mindy Pratt, Natalie Cooke, Mandee Cossa, and Kerri Bauer supported the request. He accepted the request and will continue his position as Community Council Chair.
2. Mindy Pratt nominated Kerri Bauer as co-chair. Natalie second the nomination. Kerri Bauer accepted the nomination and is the new co-chair.
3. Council members discussed the need to make first grade class sizes smaller. Currently first grade has 91 students. Teachers were asked to provide input on staffing by completing a survey to provide first, second and third choice options from the given 8 staffing options that had been discussed by the teachers. 22 surveys were provided to the council for review. 13 teachers felt that the council should consider disbanding the PM Kindergarten class and move the Kindergarten teacher to first grade full time, lay off the vocab aides, and hire a ½ day kindergarten teacher. The second choice option by teachers is to disband vocab aides and have a half day AM intervention in 1<sup>st</sup> grade hired using Trustlands funds. Third choice by teachers is to disband AM Kindergarten and have a half day AM intervention in 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

Council members looked over the Trust Lands Budget and made adjustments that would need to be approved by the district. \$24,000 would need to be taken from the Hourly aides and put into contract teacher salaries. \$6,214.92 allocated for equipment would need to be removed from the budget and used for the \$8,000 needed in Health Insurance for a new teacher. ¼ would also be needed in retirement. These are rough estimates and Ms. Martz said she will update the calculations for next council meeting.

With careful consideration and input from the teachers present at the meeting and examining funding, council members unanimously voted in favor of disbanding the PM Kindergarten class and move the Kindergarten teacher to first grade full time, lay off the vocab aides, and hire a ½ day Kindergarten teacher.

Ms. Martz noted that she would work on integrating Kindergarten first and then move to integrate first grade classes.

4. Community Council discussed the agenda for the Thursday, October 9, 2014 regularly scheduled meeting.
  - Review & update budget
  - Revise trust lands plan
  - Approval on trust land plans by district
  - Letter to parents about volunteering with other teachers
  - Hiring ½ kindergarten teacher and look into hiring internships. Invite Diane Steele to provide more details.
  - Build SSAP.