

MINUTES OF OREM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, March 12, 2008 ~ 11:15am ~ Rm 205

PRESENT

Faculty

Brad Davies
Jon Mohlman
Heather Stewart
Emelie Whitehead

Parent/Guardians
Shari Gingras

Bunney Schmidt (non-voting)
Ada Wilson
Keith Wilson (non-voting)
Jenna Wood
ABSENT
Mindy Harmon
Teresa Gorritti

MEETING BROUGHT TO ORDER by Ada Wilson, Chair.

MINUTES were available online, discussed and approved. Council generally agreed that we had a very successful meeting with District and State officials last month. It was noted that we need to have hard copies of our minutes in the office. Ada Wilson will see that this is done.

BUSINESS

- Election of two Council members to be held March 27th in conjunction with the choral concert and PTA elections. Another call for candidates will be sent to parents ASAP.
- Year-End Report to Patrons will be prepared by Ada Wilson to be published in the April newsletter.
- Discussed the Annual Assessment survey that will be given out to parents in May. No further questions were deemed necessary beyond “Is the SCC open and responsive?” A suggestion was made to find out how many school households have internet access.
- DISCUSSION OF School Trust LAND Plan ---Expenditure of funds
 - ***See last page for PROPOSED SCHOOL TRUST LAND PLAN BUDGET.**
 - Faculty Survey information is indicated on “Wish List” that was distributed.
 - Mary Harper, STAR tutor, raised questions about testing for reading levels (DRA) before the school year begins to get an early start on remediation efforts. This is already taking place in 1st grade. Discussed the different needs of upper versus lower grade teachers. We would like to try funding grade 1-3 for pretesting and funding 4-6 for test evaluation time.
 - Mary Harper also voiced the need for additional books for the STAR reading tutors. There are now 5-7 tutors using materials meant for one. Council agreed. (See table below.)
 - Noted that the Guided Reading Library is in need of care. An Eagle Scout is planning to do some maintenance there for his project. (Rejoice!) Suggestion was made that faculty members be assigned to take turns maintaining it or that it be handled through PTA volunteers. An aide would be ideal, but expensive. It is a big job. Decided to handle through the PTA, similar to Home Reading.
 - Discussed the issue of testing high level readers. Currently, students are only tested to see if they are at grade level. The problem lies in the complexity of the

testing at upper levels. Rather than just test for fluency, they also must test for other important aspects – comprehension, retention, and writing abilities. It was suggested that, when parents want to know fluency levels, they can find sites on the Internet (Dibbles, for example) where they can do that. More complex testing takes time that teachers don't generally have.

- SCC: Want to set aside funds for basic materials and training new SCC members, usually done through the PTA Leadership Convention at BYU -- \$35 per person
- Website: Discussed goal to improve communication between school, parents, teachers, and SCC. We have a real need to upgrade our school website. The expense to hire someone would be considerable, and probably not clearly related to the academic goals we have. We will talk to a parent volunteer about running the site for a trial period, making sure that some research is done on other school websites. Ada Wilson will talk to the volunteer.
- Teacher Websites: Decided that this is not a real priority in an elementary school. Some teachers already have independent sites going for their students. It would be possible to get some volunteer trainer for those teachers who desire it.
- Classroom aide to help with data entry/busy work: We currently enjoy the volunteer services of a few women who are very consistent and reliable. Their contributions are significant. The cost of an aide for every upper grade class:
 $9 \text{ teachers} \times \$8/\text{hour} \times 2 \text{ hr/week} \times 36 \text{ weeks} = \5200 (\$576 per aide)
We discussed the importance of confidentiality in cases where volunteers have access to grades. Also, we discussed ways to encourage senior citizens and other willing citizens to volunteer at the school. Ideas included a special sign up sheet at Back-To-School Night, recognizing senior volunteers and recruiting others during our Grandparent Lunch Day, and recognizing all our volunteers in special ways.
- Family Science Night: The Council liked the idea of having this event annually. This year it is being put on by Utah State University at a cost to the school of \$1800. Writing a grant for this event is a possibility. A former science teacher, Vickie Ahlstrom, used grant money to hold parent orientation meetings with the families of her students, complete with building and creating projects.
- Agreed to partially fund the CCRC (Crazy Cubs Reading Club) to encourage reading of good books in the upper grades. The PTA will contribute equally to this club. They use the funds to buy incentives. Jenna Wood suggested that some additional leveled prizes are needed to keep the kids motivated.
- Agreed to partially fund the Home Reading program, as has been done in the past. The funds are used for new books, repairs, and set up materials.
- In looking at a detailed list of general teaching supplies, we decided to treat them collectively and set aside blocks of funding for science, math, and literacy.
- NOTE: Trust LANDS funds may not be used for the pre-school operating at OES or for the Deaf Unit. Both have other funding avenues.
- RAD Kids Training: This is a personal safety program usually taught by the PE teachers. With just one P.E. teacher, it is more challenging to fit this in. However, we will approach Mrs. Olivera about working this into her curriculum.
- Gifted & Talented Training: This is a 2-year program offered by the District. It requires a significant time commitment by the teacher and is recommended for teachers with at least 4 years teaching experience. Not a priority we can really

mandate for a teacher – must be a personal choice, although we would like to have a teacher trained in both upper and lower grades.

- NAMI-trained teacher: National Association for the Mentally Ill offers a teacher training. We will check to find out what the cost is. It is probably minimal.
- Professional Development Training in Science: Discussed the possibility of having an experienced teacher come in on a professional development day to help our teachers who will be teaching science in the core for the second year.
- Professional Development as Proposed by OES Faculty: Need to keep this as a priority, including Core Academy training, --- essential.
- Many professional development opportunities are available through the Alpine School District. Often teachers choose to take these on their own.
- DRA Reading Pre-Testing: Many schools are opting to test their student BEFORE school starts to get an early start on remediation efforts. This is already taking place in 1st grade. We would like to try funding grade 1-3 for pretesting and funding 4-6 for test evaluation time.
- TUTORS & AIDES: Discussed the positive contribution our aides and tutors are currently making. Emilie Whitehead, resource teacher, noted that she is getting fewer referrals since the tutor/aides began helping. This is a priority item.

Brad Davies has prepared the School Improvement Plan. Ada Wilson will review it and write the School LAND Trust Plan budget taking into consideration all the discussion of this meeting. Both will be distributed by email before the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 2, 2008
FOCUS: Approval and signatures of SIP and Plan
Also in APRIL SCC members encouraged to observe a Monday Collaboration Day.
 Brad Davies will let us know which Monday is best.

MEETING ADJOURNED 12:30pm?

*** SEE NEXT PAGE for SCHOOL TRUST LAND PLAN BUDGET**

SCHOOL TRUST LAND PLAN BUDGET - DRAFT

ITEMS PROPOSED	DESCRIPTION / ESTIMATE METHOD	COST
SCC EXPENSES		
Training for new members & materials	Registration fee ---\$35/person x 3 (\$105) Copies	\$120
CLASSROOM TEACHING SUPPLIES		
Home Reading	Supplies, books, repairs	\$600
Crazy Cubs Reading Club	Minor incentives and prizes for year	\$300
Science & Math	\$500 per grade level – Write proposals	\$3500
Family Science Night	Hands-on activities; parent orientation	\$500
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
Core Academy; other (science empha.)		\$3000
RAD Kids Training	1 teacher	\$500
NAMI Training-Recog. Mental Illness	1 teacher	(free)
ASSESSMENT		
DRA testing	(1-3) \$17.50/hr x 12 teachers x 6 hrs. (4-6) \$17.50/hr x 9 teachers x 3 hrs.	\$1250 \$472 Total \$1722
REMEDATION		
Tutor & aides	STAR Reading tutors, classroom aides for math and reading	\$18,000
STAR tutoring materials	Books for leveled reading (\$4 to 6/book)	\$1000
TOTAL		\$29,542