

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 25th, 2016
5:30-7:00 pm
Riley Library

In attendance: Jose Garcia, Shawna Govero, Heidi Cowan, Brian Conley, Chris Mitchener, Irma Quiroz, Ana Evangelista, Juana Alvarez, Yazmin Serrato, Stephanie Mora, Sarah Farah, Maria Mendoza, Christi Paulson, Heather Bennett, Jim Martin, Ronald Urbin.

The meeting started at 5:30pm.

Dr. Martin shared school budgets. We are mostly spending our money on additional staff to make class sizes smaller and to provide intervention to students who need it. There was some question about if these expenditures have changed to account for results of last year's end-of-level testing. Dr. Martin said that while the expenditures may not have changed, we are trying to strengthen how these resources are used this year. For example, the paraprofessionals providing intervention are being supported in their work with students by the language arts coach. There is strong interest by members of SCC in parents being trained on helping their children with academics, both at home and here at school as tutors.

There was some concern and question expressed about ELD. Dr. Martin explained that this is English Language Development and that even students who speak English as their first language need and receive additional support with English language development. Dr. Martin explained that speaking, listening, writing, and reading are part of the Utah core. Dr. Martin invited parents to visit ELD classes to see what this instruction is all about.

The next topic to be discussed was bullying. Dr. Martin shared a Powerpoint that was used to train school personnel on bullying. There was a long discussion. It was recommended that the school provide stronger supervision during recesses, maybe with the help of parent volunteers. It was also recommended that a student team be assembled to be friends with children out on the playground and to keep children safe during recesses.

SCC members asked that notes be sent home about how parents can help with bullying. SCC members asked that children be reminded that it is important to report bullying when they see it occurring or when they are experiencing it themselves—reassure them that this is okay and necessary.

SCC members also felt it is important for parents to be called and involved closely in the process when there are incidents of bullying. It was important to SCC that both the bully's parents and the victim's parents be included in the conversation about solutions.

Some of the parents expressed concern about lice at the school. It was explained that students with live bugs are not allowed to be in school. However, students with "nits" or eggs are allowed to attend school. When there is a lice situation in a classroom, parents are notified through a note home. Dr. Martin will check on the policy associated with lice and report back.

The issue of uniforms was discussed. It is felt that grey should be a color included in the uniform policy. This will be revisited by the SCC at the next meeting. Once an SCC decision is made, it needs to be brought to the community-at-large for their input in order for the policy to be revised.

Ms. Mendoza reminded everyone that we recycle uniforms. We love to have your gently-used uniforms that we can then provide to another family. If you need a uniform, Maria Mendoza has some gently-used ones that you are welcome to come and get.

Kathleen Christy from the equity department came and talked about Riley's equity plan which is focused on English Language Learners (ELL) at levels 1 and 2. We have a coach to support teachers in helping their ELL students. We are also looking for ways to engage families in our improvement efforts. Ms. Christy talked about a focus group with Jenny Mayer-Glenn from the district office that would allow parents a voice in family engagement initiatives.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be Monday November 28th at 5:30 pm. Minutes by Jim Martin.