West Point Elementary School

Community Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Welcome and Introduction:

Valerie Hulsey welcomed the council and the members took turns introducing themselves and their positions. In attendance were

Valerie Hulsey- 2015-2016 Community Council Co-chair

Kyle Laws- representative from West Point City Council (visitor)

Catherine Carlson- 2015-2016 Community Council Secretary

Brittney Bateman- parent

Becky Merrick-parent

Dave Halling- teacher

Lisa Larkin- Assistant Principal

Loren Clark- Principal

There will be new staff members serving on the council this year. They will be at the next meeting. Mr. Clark made a motion to ratify the new parent members of the council, Brittney Bateman and Cassey Stenger, who was not in attendance but has indicated a desire to serve on the council. The motion was seconded and a unanimous vote was affirmative. Heather Butler will also serve on the council as the PTA liason. With the departure of Valerie Hulsey a new council chair was needed. Brittney Bateman’s name was put forward and an affirmative vote was taken to ratify that action. The council also voted unanimously to keep Catherine Carlson as the council secretary.

With those votes completed Lisa Larkin was excused to attend to other business.

Mr. Clark turned the time over to Kyle Laws for an update on the work being done on the Loy Blake Park extension as its proximity impacts the school. The road north of the school is complete and parents have been using it as a route around the school during drop-off and pick-up times. Speed humps will be installed on this road in the near future to keep traffic moving slowly. There will be some striped crosswalks over the humps. The current plan is to have a splash pad and restrooms on the northeast corner of the extension area as well as a walking path around the park. The parking lot was a shared cost between the city and school district to alleviate the parking issues at the school. It will be complete soon. Mr. Clark asked if there would be lighting in the parking lot and Mr. Laws said the islands are wired so that can be added if necessary. Mr. Laws spoke about a need to review the traffic flow for safety at the intersection of 3650 W and 300 N. The city is going to conduct a survey of the area to determine if a crossing guard is needed there. This issue can be discussed in our next council meeting after the city and school have had some time to evaluate how the new traffic patterns are working.

Later in the meeting Mr. Clark also discussed the school’s future development of the southwest corner of the park extension area. The plan is to use it as an outdoor classroom area with particular focus on the 4th grade curriculum. It could be designed in the shape of Utah with different landscapes and markers to indicate features of the state. Fundraising in the future can help defray the cost. Mr. Laws suggested it be offered up to local scouts in need of Eagle project ideas.

Valerie Hulsey and David Halling were excused.

Mr. Clark reported on school items including the Fall Fundraiser to pay for soccer goals and water filling stations and the installation of the Freedom Wall. He asked for parent input on fundraisers. The PTA does 1 every year and the school does another. The Wasatch Savings fundraiser that was just being completed earned $1,600. That money will be spent on one set of semi-permanent soccer goals. Building money will pay for an additional set. Becky Merrick said that Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough does better as a fundraiser than the generic cookie dough. Mr. Clark indicated that that will be the plan for the spring fundraiser. Catherine Carlson said that rotating product and non-product fundraisers helps tap into both kinds of parents, those who want to buy things and those who just want to give money.

Water bottle filling stations are replacing old water fountains in the school. They cost between $330-450 per station. The school district is pretty slow installing them though and there is a long wait for the masonry work.

Mike Butler has completed the Freedom Wall installation. The council members signed a thank you note and that along with a gift for the family will be presented to Mr. Butler at a ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in the near future.

The council discussed parent and community involvement at the school. There are many activities planned for the year and those events are on the school calendar provided by the PTA. Mr. Clark asked if parents felt encouraged by teachers to volunteer in the classroom. All of the parents said they were and that there were many options for helping both in and outside of the school.

A few updates are needed for the School Improvement Plan. Mr. Clark explained that District Goal #1 needs to be updated to reflect that the funds are being used for mathematics as well as reading, writing, and technology. A motion was made, seconded and passed. Regarding District Goal #2, new restrictions mean that the money allocated to paraprofessional support for attendance issues cannot be used in that way. There is also a new district requirement that schools spend no more than $2 per student on incentives. Mr. Clark outlined a few areas where the $1000 could be used. There is an ipad lab that is a few units short. The money could be used to buy those. It could also be used to pay for additional substitute hours while teachers do professional training. Mr. Clark also explained that there is a $2700 carryover from last year. The council will have to decide where that is to be spent. The council will vote on the $1000 change at the meeting in November.

Catherine Carlson asked if any of the after and before school enrichment activites such as ballroom dance, choir, and SEM needed additional funding. Mr. Clark said right now they are all self-funding. There may be some need in the SEM program though. Mrs. Penner is running at full capacity and her programs are very popular.

Catherine Carlson had to leave early and the remainder of the minutes are as recorded by Mr. Clark.

In February the school have the results of mid-year testing which will show what progress if any is being made on reading, attendance, etc…

The school is in the middle of Green Ribbon week, a focused effort to help kids get to and from school safely. Other activities happening are the “feet” awards for running/walking the track during recesses and morning and afternoon activities for “Healthy Body/Healthy Mind”.

As a Community Council we need to ensure that all electronic devices are filtered in the school. They are managed by “iBoss” our filtering program when students/staff are on the school network.

The council also discussed the facility/classroom improvement survey taken by the staff/teachers earlier this month, and the priorities they selected, which were water bottle filling stations and soccer goals and an electronic marquee, followed by mobile iPad labs, shades for big toy areas, and playground improvements for functional skills students (outside) and Kindergarten.

The council was dismissed and the meeting adjourned.