West Point Elementary Community Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2017

In attendance: Becky Merrick, Brittney Bateman, Heather Butler, Cody Ann Ricks, Rise Timpke, Loren Clark, Cassey Stenger, and Catherine Carlson

Brittney Bateman, the council chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Since the council minutes from the last meeting were lengthy, Catherine Carlson declined to read them aloud and instead moved to approve them as written and emailed to the council after last meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Principal Clark reported on several school items. There is currently an update on the sound system in the gym. It will be able to be run by ipad from in front of the stage rather than just behind it. Several wireless microphones have been purchased and a digital mixer is being purchased as well. There will be new security cameras around the exterior of the school.

Through a DSD Foundation Grant and some additional money provided by the school, an InfiniD Lab is being installed in one of the portables. This is a space mission simulator developed by Westinghouse that teachers can use to reinforce core requirements. There are different simulations based on grade level requiring students to solve complex problems. Mr. Clark has done the demonstrations and feels this will be a great thing for the students. The cost of software licenses is $2000 per grade level every 2 years. Right now the unit is being installed in a portable, but it could be done in the existing computer labs for an additional cost. Cody Ann expressed concern that the portable might not be very secure and subject to vandalism by students who know what is inside.

All of the teachers in the school met by grade level to discuss methods and strategies for helping students. These were divided into categories of Tier 1, whole class instruction, and Tier 2, small group or individual instruction. Tier 2 needs can be directly funded by Land Trust money.

Brittney asked for any ideas and questions from the council at large. None of the other members had anything, but she wanted to discuss with the principal the issue of busing. Apparently there have been many instances of late bus pick up and drop off and the district transportation office has not done a good job communicating with parents. Mr. Clark had several suggestions for the parents on how to remedy the communication problem, namely to call the district transportation office directly and request that robocalls or texts be sent out to alert parents to late bus issues. The timely distribution of bus passes and simplification of bus numbering was also discussed.

Cassey Stenger reported on the recent PTA Book Fair. It was very successful. $1191 went directly back into the school for the purchase of new books by teachers.

Mr. Clark brought up the Our Schools Now Initiative being pushed by Utah businesses and legislators. It would increase the state income tax to raise money for education. Mr. Clark was happy with the idea of additional spending but expressed a desire for the money to be distributed similarly to the way the Land Trust money is, rather than given in one huge lump sum.

The council looked over the prior year School Improvement Plan summary and report and also reviewed the mid year reading data for K-3.

Regarding the new SIP that will be drawn up this year, Mr. Clark outlined the technology needs and how much they would cost. $33,400 would cover computer replacement for staff, special ed, library, SEM, and the computer labs that were not replaced last year. Some of this money would come from “Refresh Funds” and the remainder, about $22,000, would need to come from Land Trust funds. That will take care of the computer needs for the whole school for several years. The teachers have given Mr. Clark lists of their technology needs. For the most part, the older grades want laptops for their students and the younger grades prefer the ipad minis.

Mr. Clark will prepare a spreadsheet of teacher requests and costs for review at our next meeting. The school will receive roughly $75,000 in Land Trust money for next fiscal year. $22,000 is already earmarked for technology updates as outlined above, leaving $53,000 for the council to allocate.

Catherine Carlson had to leave before the meeting was over.

Brittney reported that the only additional business discussed was an assembly held recently teaching the students about bus evacuation and safety.

Rise Timpke made a motion to adjourn. Becky Merrick seconded the motion and the meeting was dismissed.