

Northridge Elementary – Home of the Nighthawks

SCC Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Minutes

SCC Members Present: Rosemary Olsen, Leslie Randle, Aubrey Ashdown, Libby Lewis, Liz Elsworth, Rosie Curtis, Colleen Philipp, Wendy Mitchell, Noel Thomas, Steven Bunker, Liberty Mason, Teri Allred, Kris Bentley

Alpine School District Representative Present: Kris Bentley

I. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, and Teri Allred welcomed participants.

II. Establish Quorum

Quorum was established by count of members present and determination of required parent to staff ratio.

III. Minutes

Liberty Mason read the minutes. Steven Bunker made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting with the change of specifying that reading library books to be purchased were to be purchased for the K-3 grades. Motion seconded by Teri Allred, motion carried.

IV. District Items

Kris Bentley and Colleen Philipp shared Alpine School District's goal of "Engaged Learning Through Nurturing Instruction," and discussion was held among SCC members regarding just what this means for Northridge Elementary. All members present agreed that even with kids coming from the toughest of home lives, a "certain kind of teacher" can catalyze a 180 degree turnaround in the student's attitude about, behavior toward, and acceptance of learning.

V. SCC Training

Discussion was held regarding how the Northridge Elementary SCC nominates, elects, composes and engages term limits for our SCC.

Elections are held every Spring before the last week of school. A 10-day notice is given to bring awareness of the upcoming elections. If the race is non-contested (that is, if nominees are equal to or fewer than open seats on the SCC), new members will be appointed by the currently-seated SCC. If the race is competitive (that is, if there are more nominees than open seats on the SCC), all parents of Northridge Elementary Students comprise the voting body.

Our membership size and composition is as follows: Three (3) teachers, One (1) Principal, Nine (9) Parents. The public is always welcome to attend SCC meetings, but only elected members have voting rights. Colleen Philipp notifies parents and community of (and invites them to) upcoming SCC meetings via the weekly newsletters she composes and disburses.

Term Limits are as follows: Elected members serve a two year term; there is no term limit for elected members provided they have a student enrolled at Northridge Elementary. Terms are staggered such that each year one-half of the elected seats are open for re-election.

Specific Role Requirements state that the chairperson of the Northridge Elementary SCC shall be a parent; the vice-chair and secretary positions may be filled by either a parent member or a staff member.

VI. Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCAS) Reports

Colleen Philipp presented the data from the most recent UCAS evaluation. Northridge Elementary received a “B” grade on the Utah State’s grading scale ranging from A (superior performance) to F (failing performance). The SCC discussed that the benchmark for Northridge Elementary was higher this year than in years previous, and that this accounts for our B grade (as opposed to the A grade that we were expecting). Nevertheless, the data shows that Northridge Elementary is one of the higher-performing elementary schools in Utah; our Language Arts, Math, and Science scores are all higher than both the Alpine School District average and the Utah State average.

VII. Report of Purchases Approved at October’s SCC Meeting

Colleen Philipp reported that since the October meeting, three iPads have been purchased and installed in classrooms, and that, in order to most efficiently use funds in the areas of greatest need, she was doing further needs-assessment before purchasing the approved books.

VIII. Discussion of Greatest Needs for Students

The SCC divided ourselves into committees to assess, throughout November and December, specific areas of instruction in order to best determine the greatest needs of Northridge Elementary students. These committees will gather information and report throughout the year.

The Committees are:

Professional Development:	Teri Allred
Language and Literacy:	Rosemary Olsen, Libby Lewis, Noel Thomas
Math:	Liberty Mason, Rosie Curtis
Writing:	Liz Elsworth
Science:	Leslie Randle, Steven Bunker

The first committee report will be presented in the January 14th, 2014 meeting by the Science Committee.

Additionally, discussion was held regarding the STAR tutoring program. In determining whether to continue using the program, Leslie Randle made a motion to keep the program, and Rosie Curtis seconded the motion. Motion carried. In order to keep it going successfully, however, the SCC realized that we must have more volunteers for the program. Lively discussion was had regarding ways to recruit more volunteers. Ideas included sending a recruiting letter/flyer to local churches, to the Senior Citizen community, to the local colleges and universities (specifically their education, social work, and English programs), and to other community groups such as the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club, and Latinos in Action (an activist group found in nearly every High School.)

Noel Thomas, Libby Lewis, and Rosemary Olsen, working with Karen Messenger who is over the STAR program, volunteered to collaborate and draft the letter/flyer.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm by Teri Allred.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2014. 1:00 pm. Northridge Elementary's Teacher Lounge