

## **Northridge Elementary SCC Minutes**

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

1:06pm – 2:15 pm

**Present:** Liberty Mason, Aubrey Ashdown, Noel Thomas, Lovina Roundy, Shelley Pierce, Stephen Bunker, Libby Harris, Liz Ellsworth, Wendy Mitchell, Rosemary Olsen, Leslie Randle, Colleen Philipp, Rose Curtis, Teri Allred

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm.

**Welcome:** Teri Allred

**American Pledge of Allegiance:** Teri Allred

**Reverence:** Lovina Roundy

**Reading of SCC Values:** Teri Allred

Prior to the January meeting, members received and reviewed the December minutes. **Leslie Randle** made a motion to approve the minutes, **Aubrey Ashdown** seconded the motion. The SCC voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

**District Value:** Colleen Philipp

**Colleen Philipp** presented Alpine School District's value of "Equitable Access to Academic Knowledge and Achievement." Discussion was held concerning the implications of this value including the distinction between "access" and "availing oneself of the access." **Stephen Bunker** noted an important distinction between someone "not being able to" do something and simply "not doing" something. It was noted that one role of educators was to inspire children to *want* to avail themselves of the things they have access to.

**Leslie Randle** explained this value as "every student having a fair share of resources and teachers' time," noting that "some kids need more than others," thus drawing a distinction between "equal" and "equitable." **Liberty Mason** mentioned that it's important for us to understand that "equal" and "fair" are different things, and that she explains the distinction to her children by means of the adage: *"Fair" means that different people get different things at different times and for different reasons – and everyone gets what they need.*"

### **Exploring Areas Where Trustlands Monies are Best Spent Within Northridge Elementary:**

**Technology:** **Rosie Curtis and Stephen Bunker** led a discussion about smartboards, interactive whiteboards and clickers. A survey had been presented to and completed by all of the teachers at Northridge asking them if, if made available, they would use any of these items in their classrooms. Also included in the survey was a question regarding Ipads and Kindles as well as a question asking for their "wish list" of technological resources.

The survey results were mixed in the areas of smartboards and clickers. The SCC wondered if this was due to a lack of information about what advantages these pieces of equipment might

offer or how to use them (merely a training issue), if it was due to a reticence to shift curricula to a more technology-based approach (a teacher preference issue), or because the devices, when tested, have actually proved themselves cumbersome and/or less effective than expected (a fiscal responsibility issue).

All but three of the teachers expressed a desire to have more I pads and Kindles in their classrooms. (Two of the three who felt they already have sufficient access to I pads and/or Kindles were Mr. Bristow, the technology instructor, and Mrs. DeWitt, the art instructor.) During the SCC discussion of the survey, the question was raised as to whether teachers were availing themselves of the I pad Cart, or if their “wish list requests for more tablets” stem from a desire to have enough I pads or Kindles in each of their classrooms as “standard equipment.”

**Star Reading:** During the December, 2013 meeting, the SCC approved \$5000 to continue the STAR Reading program.

**Math Helpers and Double Dose:** **Rosie Curtis, Stephen Bunker and Liz Ellsworth** led a discussion on the math programs in use at Northridge with the intent of deciding whether or not to continue subscribing to/funding them. It was brought up that Alpine School District will match funding to the Double Dose program, so to allocate funding there (an estimated \$8000) would be a prudent move. The SCC also discussed *Big Brains* (approximately \$1500/year) and *Brain Pop* (approximately \$2200), **Rosie Curtis and Stephen Bunker** both spoke in favor of continuing to fund *Math Tips*, (annual cost currently undisclosed) noting that “kids who do it come out more solid,” and that it “is very helpful for any lagging students.”

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Science Committee:** **Leslie Randle** presented her well-executed research into how Northridge teachers would like their science curriculum to be enhanced. Having surveyed Mrs. Geyerman (Upper Grade Science Specialty Teacher), Jennifer Edwards (First Grade Teacher) and Jenette Savage (Second Grade Teacher), and Ruth Iman (Third Grade Teacher), Leslie constructed a comprehensive list of the most-desired Science books and equipment, then researched vendors and costs for said books and equipment. *According to Leslie’s research, \$2329.77 is the approximate cost to acquire all of the requested items.*

As discussions were held regarding the technology, math, and science information presented by SCC members, **Liberty Mason** noted that data on the efficacy of the programs/equipment Northridge is currently using might prove a most valuable tool in deciding where to most expertly assign funding.

**Noel Thomas** agreed that she’s appreciate seeing assessment data as well. **Colleen Philipp** stated that such data does (of course) exist – that it is regularly gathered and assessed in regularly-held meetings, and suggested that SCC members interested in viewing the data attend one (or more) of said meetings.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 2014. 1:00 pm. Northridge Elementary Teachers’ Lounge.