

Orchard Elementary School Community Council Meeting January 12, 2016

Members Present—Aaron Stevenson (Principal Representative), Jeff Shirley (Employee Representative), Kristie Jolley (Parent Representative), Courtney Stratton (Parent Representative), Megan Snow (Parent Representative), Hillary Morgan (Parent Representative),

Members absent: Melanie Hunter, Melissa Jones, Diane Flickinger

1. Welcome—Mr. Stevenson welcomed the group and excused Melanie Hunter and Melissa Jones.

2. Council Business—

A. Mr. Stevenson explained that there are two items of business that he would like to focus on at today's meeting. The first item is that he met with a maintenance supervisor regarding capital outlay funds. One option we could use is replacing all of our outdoor locks with a key card system. A concern that was brought up by Mrs. Morgan was concerning a lockdown, and if doors could be locked immediately by the office in a lock down. Mr. Stevenson explained that our doors have a Velcro strap that can be quickly pulled off the door, which locks it immediately as it's pulled shut. Mrs. Stratton asked what the procedure is for a lockdown, and Mr. Stevenson said any person could initiate for an official lockdown in an emergency. Mr. Shirley mentioned that there are varying levels of a lockdown, like what happened with the most recent Pleasant Grove incident when we were on alert in regards to what was happening, but did not initiate a lock down. Mrs. Snow asked how parents could be notified in case of a lockdown, but Mr. Stevenson said in an official lockdown, district personnel would inform parents, but building personnel would hold off giving information until it was accurate and appropriate. Mr. Stevenson asked the Council if there were any other items in need of capital outlay funds, and Mrs. Jolley asked if Orchard is updated seismically, and Mr. Stevenson said we are up to seismic code. Mr. Shirley mentioned that capital outlay funds could include monies set aside to improve things like aesthetic appearance of a school (like our inside walls), as well as outer appearance. Mrs. Stratton asked what is happening with the 'Hawk' system that was supposed to be installed, and Mr. Stevenson said the estimate to install it came in higher than the city was willing to pay and it's still going to be installed, but at a later date. Mr. Stevenson also explained that there

is a plan in place to replace things like out emergency generator, window hardware, and lunchroom tables. He also said, however, what we have in terms of lunchroom tables may be better than what is currently out there. He also explained that our walls are also on the schedule for capital outlay, and we've had conversations about painting them. There have also been discussions regarding replacing the blacktop pavement behind the school, as well as replacing the gym partition. He said that we could also look at replacing the outlets for our fire suppression system, our boilers, and our electrical outlets. Mrs. Stratton mentioned a concern with our bathrooms, saying that her children have explained that there's no hot water and the hand dryers don't work very well. Mr. Stevenson said he appreciated this feedback, and would look at the settings to see what we could do about it. He also said there's ongoing maintenance regarding our hand dryers. He said we could also look at whether or not the students need to wait a little bit for the hot water to come out. He invited the council to make him aware of any concerns in the future if they arise in regards to capital outlay.

B. Mr. Stevenson transitioned to the next item of business regarding the CMI education focus (through BYU) that we had discussed earlier this school year. He explained that other schools around us (like Foothill) have turned their focus more toward a STEM focus or STEAM focus, due to some circumstances that have occurred in their buildings. He mentioned that our district has also increased its focus on STEM instruction and how the district is sending principals to Boston to visit highly integrated STEM schools. He explained that STEM education is difficult because most teachers are not trained on the authentic tasks involved in STEM instruction. He explained that there are schools in communities, like Boston, who are able to partner with companies like MIT and have a development plan in place to increase STEM emphasis in schools. Mr. Stevenson explained that the concept of partnering with universities is to bring in university students, or professors, to help our students in STEM education. He also explained that university students could come in to our lab and help students with programming skills, like SCRATCH or 3D design. Mr. Stevenson showed a video regarding innovative, authentic, hands-on learning experiences in STEM instruction. The video showed students at a Boston school using science, technology, and engineering to create meaningful learning experiences. The video explained how the students are not just learning facts, but learning how to think.

After the video, Mr. Stevenson explained that the types of projects showed in the video are realistic things that we could implement at Orchard. He explained that an interesting concept to realize is that technology does not always have to

include computers, and can include anything that improves our lives. Mr. Stevenson said that he would actually be able to visit the STEM school, along with others, that were shown in the video. Mrs. Morgan wondered if we should put our money into STEM instruction to pay for some of the engineering employees to come to our schools. Mr. Stevenson said there are many companies locally that are more than willing to train people in Utah that will turn around, and stay in Utah and strengthen their company. He said that he would have a better idea in February, when he returns, in regards to increasing our STEM focus.

3. Adjournment— Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will take place on February 9, 2016, at 3:30 p.m.