

Orem Elementary School Community Council

Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2012, 10:45am

Council Members

Parents

Cathy Ambrose
Mindy Harmon
Karina Ruvalcaba
Angela Seegmiller
Tim Stay
Karen Wynn

Faculty

Rachelle Bolingbroke
Steve Herrmann
Sandi West
Teresa Whitehead

Attendance:

Sherrí McKell	Rachelle Bolingbroke
Cathy Ambrose	Mary Cole
Karen Wynn	Marchele Oldham
Julie Reid	Angela Seegmiller
Sandi West	Jakelle DeMille
Anna Steadman	Laura Giles
Tim Stay	Jennie Griffith

Intros/Welcome/Thank You: Angela Seegmiller, chair

- Consensus process handout
- SCC Agendas, minutes and info available on school website
- Committees
 - 1) Help us contribute as council members
 - 2) Sent around sheet to verify committees

Stake Holders Report: Rachelle Bolingbroke, Principal

- Decided to use the condensed tri-fold since discovering schools are responsible for printing/ mailing costs. Trust Land funds cannot be used for these expenses. What should be included in this years report? Which graphs?
- RIF – Reading is Fun. First grade intervention taking it beyond Flex. Meet two days a week, students are broken up into reading levels. 2nd grade is trying similar attempts – extensions/interventions for readers of all levels. Upper Grades: Using reading apps with iPads. Seeing visible improvements in a relative short period of time.
- Professional Development: Minimal Days focusing on how to help beyond Flex. Teachers meet frequently to discuss struggling students. Vertical alignment collaborations.
- Math: 6th grade has state standards and will ensure the students will know the concepts to be 7th grade ready. Tim Stay wanted to point out that changing curriculum is hard work for teachers and they are amazing for doing it well. Julie Reid asked if teachers need Trust Land funds to work out the new curriculum. Yes, they are compensated to come in during the summer as a team to implement the new curriculum.
- The school is focusing on information rich common assessments over the CRT, with doesn't give us specific data and has many unknown variables.

1st Grade Report: Laura Giles, Jennie Griffith

- Attended Arts Conference funded by SCC. Miss. Conover and Mrs. Johnson also attended. Data shows arts improve all academics. Learned about techniques such as “Mind Mapping” where you draw and write to improve literacy. Also learned about integrating music into reading. The conference was considered very helpful and the teachers who participated wanted to say thank you for that opportunity.
- Summer Collaboration: The 1st grade team took the new core curriculum and their existing word working schedule and integrated the two where applicable. They modified assessments as needed to comply with the new core curriculum (c.c.). With c.c. made parent and student friendly “I can” statements. When the students know what their objectives are, they are more responsible for their own learning.
- Laura Giles has been using a blog to better involve parents.
- Jennie Griffith displayed the three parts of the story chart she came up with to help students track the beginning, middle and end of their stories.
- Teachers went through the core to incorporate writing to be done throughout the day.
- Other strategies mentioned from conference: books (need to be simplified and have words added to make it 1st grade compatible), adding music to poetry, sound affects, acting, drawing and the kids LOVE IT!
- A council member inquired if “I can” statements could be sent home in progress reports to encourage more parental involvement. Tim Stay commented it would be great if we eventually got to the place where we could pull parents into the intervention process and Master Connect would be the tool to help us get there. The 1st grade is trying to do something like it with their “Essentials”. Tim Stay asked 1st grade teachers what can the SCC do to get them there. Response: Continue with Flex, RIF, and extra interventions and more classroom aids. Need to utilize WatchDOGS – all teachers filled out a survey indicating when it would be appropriate to have WatchDOGS assist in the classroom. Julie Reid asked if WatchDOGS were required to submit a background check. Answer: No, not required by district and the program has guidelines to help prevent unfortunate situations (not aloud to be alone with students ever, not allowed to use student restrooms, etc.).

Miscellaneous: Rachelle Bolingbroke, Principal

- Janice Smith will be compensated to help make stakeholders’ report.
- Discussion about what charts should be included in the report. Karen Wynn commented with concern if showing that we compared lower to other schools would hurt us. Tim Stay said we should be upfront and emphasize we know we didn’t do as well as expected and here is our plan to change that.
- Rachelle briefly discussed “UCAS” over the old “AYP”.
- Expect an email with the proposed content for the Stakeholders’ Report, please reply with feedback if you have any.
- District SCC meeting tomorrow after school in library. Think of requests you have for the district to improve the school. Suggestions: Smaller class sizes, how the demographic changes and growth in Vineyard is going to affect our school/boundaries, Jakelle DeMille asked about a district resource for parents to be available online that showed the scheduled curriculum in real time (a syllabus type of thing). Karen Wynn pointed out the parents who always participated would love that, but it wouldn’t help the parents who are habitually uninvolved. More aids in the classroom. Improve school’s “curb appeal”. Remodel faculty workroom and add a faculty lounge so work and break time are separated (it isn’t very relaxing to take your break with all those machines running). Add a student common’s area so they can be active indoors and protect them from inclement weather.
- It was asked by a council member if the school is fully funded for the autistic units or if it was a liability. Rachelle explained it is fully funded.

Adjourned: 12:13