

Traverse Mountain Elementary School
School Community Council Minutes
April 17, 2014

Members Present: Matt Smith, Natalie Hill, Dee Lawler, Kim Kosorok, April Leder, Austin Cowley, Rachelle Funk, Janelle Wride, Britt Rohde, Krista Isaacson

Not Present: Ilene Strong, Kristy Knowlton

Kimberly called the meeting to order at 3:50 pm

1. Approval of Minutes from last meeting:

Rachelle moved to approve the minutes, Janelle seconded the motion, vote was unanimous.

2. SCC Membership for next year:

Kim and Natalie need to be re-elected (in September)

Kim proposed to make a change in our By-Laws. By-Law #4 provides for 7 parent members and 5 faculty members in the Council. The proposed change is to increase the number of parents from 7 to 9 to alleviate the problems we've had with not having enough parents to conduct a vote from time to time. Matt moved to change the By-Laws to reflect the change from 7 parent members to 9. Natalie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Kim urged all of us to be talking to community members to nominate themselves for the election in September. She requested that Ilene include that invitation in her community emails during the rest of this school year and through the summer.

Dee made a suggestion that we have teachers on the council represent all grade levels. Currently, the younger grades are not represented on the Council.

3. Parking Plan:

Since Ilene could not be present today, Kim will follow up with her to get a plan in place for next year.

4. Safety Issues:

There is now a "Tiger Light" installed in the classroom on the Northeast corner upstairs (currently Britt Rohde's room) that signals when it is an inside day for students.

Krista had a question about the legalities of the airsoft play that is occurring in the empty lot above the school parking lot. She will follow up on it with the police.

5. Donations from Companies:

Kim proposed creating a plan to approach incoming businesses for donations to the school. Natalie suggested that it would be effective if one of the elements to our approach would include letters from students. Many teachers said it would fit in nicely with our curriculum to write a persuasive letter.

6. Questions about SAGE testing:

Teachers report that while the tests are good, some are very long for kids, and we have a lot of difficulty accommodating all teachers when their students are taking longer than expected. Mrs. Hansen has acted quickly to fix the scheduling problems. The tests themselves are great!

7. Discussion Items:

a. Kim urges everyone to be sure to plan to attend the first meeting of the next school year in September. We will be making plans, and calendaring for the year.

b. Kim told us that many people in the neighborhood are really concerned about what's going on with Specialty classes. Currently, there are rumors about what changes are occurring, citing the worry about there not being any Art, P.E., nor Music next year. Parents are not happy about that. Also, there is a worry on behalf of Mrs. Shupe. There is a perception that although she is a great teacher and well-loved, she was not hired for next year. These items would be good to clarify for the community to quell the rumors.

c. Britt brought up the question for discussion about whether or not to have Back to School Night and/or Open house next year. Parents who were present expressed a preference to have both meetings. Teachers prefer just one.

8. Assignments for next meeting (in September):

Kim reminded everyone to publicize the need we have for people to nominate themselves for a spot on the Community Council.

She also made an appeal to do all you can to be present at next year's September meeting. We are needed!!

Meeting adjourned by Kimberly at 4:32 pm