

Mueller Park Community Council Meeting
December 19, 2016
6:45 – 7:30 A.M.
Office Conference Room
Minutes

Welcome by John Tobin (Community Council Chair)

Attendance: Deanne Kapetanov, John Tobin, Rob Hunter, Brenda Raccuaia, Claire Cassity, Kevin Poff, Richard Stout, Maria Ellis, Jessica Gunn and Karen Ericson

Approval of November minutes: Motioned by Mrs. Kapetanov as amended and seconded by Jessica Gunn. There was a unanimous approval by the Community Council (John Tobin, Rob Hunter, Brenda Raccuaia, Claire Cassity, Kevin Poff, Richard Stout and Maria Ellis)

Appointment of new Council members: Karen Ericson (at large 2016 – 2018) Brenda Raccuaia (from Bountiful Elementary area 2015 – 2017), Victoria Mecham (at large 2015- 2017 term) was motioned by Kevin Poff and seconded by Richard Stout. There was a unanimous approval by the Community Council (Mrs. Kapetanov, John Tobin, Rob Hunter, Brenda Raccuaia, Claire Cassity, Kevin Poff, Richard Stout, Jessica Gunn and Maria Ellis)

Teacher absenteeism: Mrs. Kapetanov said that as of last Friday the MPJH has had 17% of our teachers being chronically absent (4 or more days per term). There was a discussion as to how it affects the classroom:

Sick leave: 573.25 hours or 42.93%
Personal leave: 227.52 hours or 17.04%
Workshop/In-service: 392.09 or 29.37%
Leave without pay: 7 hours or .52%
Other: 135.2 hours or 10.13%
Grand Total: 1335.06 or 99.99%

Richard Stout asked if the numbers for sick leave include teachers on short term or long term disability. Mrs. Kapetanov said yes if a teacher is receiving sick pay for the time gone. The discussion continued looking at workshop/in-service hours used. Mrs. Kapetanov said that allowing teachers to attend professional development trainings is one of the best ways to improve teaching within the classroom. Maria Ellis said that the Community Council approved professional development for teachers in order to collaborate for PLCs. Rob Hunter said that he's seen a decrease in the quality of teaching due to teacher absenteeism. He said that students are impacted by teachers being absent. He wondered if we can do something about workshop/in-service trainings on days other than school days. John Tobin said that if an employer grants an employee personal leave then the employee has the right to use it. Mrs. Kapetanov said that she does instruct teachers not to take personal days off on prime days (such as the day before Spring Break). Mrs. Kapetanov said that if we send teachers to professional development on non-school days, then a stipend is often paid. She said that teachers attend many trainings on their own time during the

summer. Mrs. Kapetanov said that as a District we are looking at teachers attending professional days during the school year and the impact on students. Mrs. Kapetanov said that a teacher plans ahead for their absence due to professional development. The continuity in class should stay consistent. Richard Stout said that he supports teachers going to professional days as he does in any other profession.

Deanne said that Joint Staff (JSSC or Joint Staff School Committee) Committee approves professional days requested by teachers. The District provides professional days for teachers (especially new teachers and Special Ed). She said that the trainings are valuable as there is much information provided. Rob Hunter asked why the District does their new teacher trainings through the school year and not in the summer. Maria Ellis said that the month of August is filled with trainings for new teachers.

Richard Stout wondered if the school is able to replace a teacher who is out on a long term leave. As this has happened within the Math department this school year, John Tobin and Brenda Raccuia said that they feel the Math situation has gotten better since the long term sub was hired.

Maria Ellis said that from her perspective the teacher's intent is not to be absent. It's very difficult for teacher's to be absent. Kevin Poff said it takes twice as much work to plan for a sub than to actually be in the school. He said that some teachers are also working two jobs. They are not able to attend outside school trainings. Kevin Poff said that often a school's most outstanding teachers are being asked to present at outside trainings and support other District trainings programs. Mrs. Kapetanov thanked Rob Hunter for his concerns and said that it's very important to pay close attention to teacher absenteeism.

5th Annual Conference and Training of the Utah Association of School Community: There will be a training on January 12th afternoon/evening. John Tobin suggested going to this training. Mrs. Kapetanov found it very valuable when she attended a previous training.

Parents and Panther Time: Rob Hunter said that he had a teacher suggest that parents help out during Panther Time in order to help with small tasks. This could be done while teachers work with the students. Maria Ellis said that she would welcome this. Mrs. Kapetanov said that they discussed this during JSSC last Friday. She said that it could be very beneficial within a REACH class. REACH classes may have fewer students but those same students have already failed a core class. Parents could help the students stay on task and help students in understanding content. Panther Time is held during the middle of the day from 1:45 – 2:05. JSSC talked about allowing parents to sign up through signup genius. Kevin Poff said that in the past we've had a few parents volunteer who really made a difference. For example in the past we had a parent show up every day to help one particular student in Math. That was very helpful. There was a discussion as to how to manage parent signups and the tasks assigned. Richard Stout wondered if there were students who need someone to listen to them read their books. Rob Hunter said that parents could help grade papers as well. The Council agreed that it would be important to assign tasks where parents felt comfortable. Jessica Gunn said that she joined community council as a way to get involved in the school. She said that there's such a difference between parent involvement at the elementary school and junior high. Brenda Raccuia said that it would be a good idea to send out a request in the principal's weekly email. Rob Hunter said that he would enjoy volunteering in his student's

classes. The Council felt that once a parent got involved, they may find it more comfortable to stay on and help with other students.

PTO Update: Brenda Raccuia reported that Mrs. Vaughn took the Student Body Officers to deliver the service project items to Head Start recently. There is a short video on Fox 13 news called Operation Chimney Drop. She said that it was an amazing experience for the Student Body Officers. Head Start said that they would be willing to come to the school to thank the student body for their donations. Brenda Raccuia said that PTO is gearing up for the Geography and Spelling Bee to be held after the holiday break.

Counseling Update: Claire Cassity said that the Counselors are completing the individual 8th grade CCRs. All 7th grade students have had their individual CCR previously. On January 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. all 9th grade students are invited to the High School/College and Career Night. This will be an informative evening to discuss high school graduation requirements, opportunities such as internships, scholarships, preparing for college and more. High School Counselors will be in attendance to discuss their upcoming Sophomore Orientations and Registration. All 9th grade students are encouraged to attend. She thanked Bennion Jr. High School and Mountain View High School for sending notes of encouragement to the Counseling Department after our recent school lockdown.

Adjourn: Brenda Raccuia motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jessica Gunn. There was a unanimous approval by all Community Council members (Deanne Kapetanov, John Tobin, Karen Ericson, Rob Hunter, Kevin Poff, Claire Cassity, Richard Stout, and Maria Ellis)