

Community Council

MEETING MARCH 31, 2015

4/14/15

Centennial Middle School Community Council Meeting March 31, 2015

THE CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MET ON TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015, AT 1:35 P.M. IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM.

THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING:

Mitch Swenson, Principal
Sharon Bradford, Parent
Loni Thurston, Chair
Erin Radandt, Teacher Rep.
Katie Geary, Vice Chair
Rhonda Wall, Parent

Visitors: Kyle Bates, Assistant Principal
Marsha Judkins and Taz Murray, School Board Members

MINUTES OF MARCH 31, 2015

1) WELCOME TO THE MEETING:

Loni Thurston

1) REVIEW OF TEACHER SUBMITTED PROPOSALS:

Four teachers submitted proposals for funding/ use of the land trust money. They are as follows:

a. Mr. Wheatley requested a set of books (10-15 copies) of Visible Learning for Teachers by Hattie. The cost of the books would be approximately \$600 with an additional \$250 requested for supplies in further teacher development. The council, in general, considered this a good idea and would like to see these books available for teacher use but felt that the limited number of copies would make it challenging to provide teacher development based on this material in a group setting fairly challenging. There is also some concern in the ability to measure and report progress which is required in any endeavor using these funds. We also felt that this may not be considered as serving the greatest academic need at the school which is the mandate of this funding as well. Other possibilities of using school funds or requesting money from the PTA will be considered to fulfill this request when/ if possible.

b. Mrs. Rupper requested \$775 to fund an after school math competition program (\$295) and money for prizes (\$300) and treats (\$180). This program has been a fun way to get kids involved in extracurricular mathematics. The council feels that this is a great program and would like to see it continue, however because it only reaches 30-40 students, it is challenging to justify using land trust money. The council is open to consider funding the competition fees but does not feel that using money for treats and prizes can be justified as an academic need, particularly the greatest academic need. Mr. Swenson reported to the council that the fees for the competition and some of the treats and prizes have been covered by school funds this year so we would submit this request to the incoming principal for her consideration to do the same. The council also suggests the possibility of requesting funding or treats being donated by the PTA, or parents of the students involved.

c. Mrs. Harrison has requested money for grade level sets of books to be used in Honors and Gifted English classes

allowing the students to take home the books to read and prepare for classroom discussion and other material based work. The request is for between \$2720 (2 books in each grade) and \$5440 (4 books in each grade). Mr. Bates reminded the council that one of the pillars of the school is to prepare students for transition to High School. Because this method of mass book reading and discussion is used at Timpview in the English classes, it makes sense for Centennial to adopt the program as well. The council would like to see the program extended to all English classes, not just the advanced classes. Currently, the minority population at the school is above 30% with 20% Hispanic. Current test data is showing the 4 out of 5 Hispanic students are not able to pass the standardized English test. It is a goal of the school and of this council, to address to problem and close the learning gap by opening the doors to Honors English for every student willing to try. This may include one on one conversations with every student who is showing ability to succeed in such a program but who may not have the support or courage to try. The council recognizes the need for many students to be encouraged and supported, and then recognized for their accomplishments in order to feel capable and successful. Everyone at this meeting would like to see the enrollment in honors English increased as much as possible.

It is the feeling of the council that these grade level book sets would be tremendously useful in changing the way that classroom time is spent and we support the purchase of these books. Within the discussion of this proposal, the council also discussed the continued need for tier 2 learning, a more effective use of plus time, and greater expectations with enforced consequences in order to raise the level of learning and performance by all students in the school. We believe that SAGE test scores and other standardized testing in reading and writing will allow the council to measure and report progress. Because the actually funding is not yet known, the trust land proposal will be left open with an undefined amount of money up to \$5500 available for this purchase.

Other options we would like to see explored would be completing sets of books that we already have classroom sets of so that those books already in the classroom are not made obsolete. We may also look at options of trading book sets with other schools or finding bulk rates elsewhere.

d. Mrs. Hammond has requested funding for a set of Chrome books to be reserved for use in the science department only. The cost of 36 chrome books would be approximately \$10K. There is some concern that providing a set for one department would not be considered fair, particularly if there was any time when the Chromebooks were not in use. However, it is the case that every student does take science so use of land trust money for this purpose is guaranteed to reach every student if the teachers are using them effectively. Technology in this, and many other subjects has been shown to heighten engagement and understanding. The council agrees that this is a good use of available funds and will designate an unspecified amount up to \$11000 to pay for new Chromebooks and a cart (\$1000).

The district is providing the school with 30 much needed new teacher computers this year.

1) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN DISCUSSED:

The current SIP was implemented in 2014 and is good for 2 years (2014-16). It outlines the schools emphasis on math, English, and science. The council feels that using the land trust money on academic support aides in math and science classrooms, increasing the novel sets in the English department, and providing chrome books for the science department, is in harmony with the approved school improvement plan.

1) TRUST LAND PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the trust land money granted to Centennial Middle School in Provo, Utah for the 2015-16 school year be used in the following way:

- a. Continue to pay salary of 5 academic support aides for the math and science classrooms. [< Previous](#) [Next >](#)
- b. Fund up to \$5500 for new novels for the use in the English department for both grades.
- c. Fund up to \$11000 for chrome books and a cart to be housed and primarily used in the Science Department.

Motion to pass was set by Sharon Bradford and seconded by Loni Thurston. The vote was unanimous in favor of this plan. Only the votes by the members of the Council were considered although the other people in attendance also expressed their support of this plan.

The proposal will now be formally written by Mitch Swenson (assisted by Sue Tandy) and signed by the Council before the submission deadline of April 17, 2015.

This concludes the meeting.