

Community Council

MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2014

12/3/14

Centennial Middle School Community Council Meeting November 11, 2014

THE CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MET ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2014, 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

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 11, 2014

1) WELCOME:

Loni Thurston introduced and welcomed the newly appointed parent member, Rhonda Wall.

1) REVIEW OF 2013-2014 FINAL REPORT:

A discrepancy was discovered between the budget balance reported last month and the balance Rhonda Wall was given at the District. It was discovered that the actual carryover from last year's budget is \$21,852. The District had not shown any carryovers in any school budgets until the new software was brought up to date in November. Katie Geary will follow up with the District to determine Centennial's actual budget amounts in the Trust Land funds.

Rhonda Wall expressed concern regarding the total allocation of Centennial's Trust Land monies being used to pay for Academic Support aides. She noted that last year's approved plan indicates the council's intention to use all money for this purpose. This concern will be discussed further as the council prepares to allocate Trust Land funds for next year with the final report due in the spring.

1) REVIEW OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (*Michael Austin*):

Mr. Austin presented a report to the Council for the 2014-2015 school year. He noted that the funding this year allowed for the hiring of an additional Academic Support aide. Centennial now has four Academic Support Instructional Assistants working in 28 math and science classes. Mr. Austin stated that, through personal observation, he has seen students acquiring skills in both, academic knowledge, and in confidence and self-motivation.

The use of Academic Support Aides is a pro-active approach to keeping students on track in their classes. The previous model of credit intervention was equated with cleaning up after the mess was already made. This model was based on taking students who had already failed and attempting to catch them up the following term; which was not as ideal as the current model. In addition, subjects such as math and science, which build on themselves, were not seeing improvement because the students were constantly trying to catch up.

Centennial's new model for Trust Land monies catches the problem and corrects it throughout the year so that the students do not fall behind. The teachers are all very much in favor of having Academic Support aides in their classes and would like to see more hired in order to cover all the classes that would benefit from this program.

In addition to Academic Support personnel, the school uses peer tutoring during Plus Time. The BYU TOPS tutoring program has fallen apart due to some scheduling challenges and paperwork difficulties, but Sharon and Rhonda will follow up with BYU to try to see that program re-implemented.

The Council also discussed other ways to get more volunteers into the school. The major concern with student volunteers is their short-term commitment and lack of consistency. There is also some concern on how volunteers would be managed in the school without overburdening any of the employees. The Council discussed with Mr. Austin the possibility of using Academic Support personnel to also supervise other volunteers as they come into the school.

1) CONCLUSION:

Rhonda Wall put forth a motion to amend last year's Trust Land Plan to not use additional funding to hire more Academic Support personnel. The Council was not prepared to vote on that motion. Amending the current plan would require school board approval and the previous Council members (who wrote these plans) are not in favor of changing them. The Council will discuss and consider a new plan for this year as more information is available regarding the needs of the school.

1) COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS:

**TOPS Volunteers – Loni and Rhonda
Research and review of Trust Land's budget -- Katie**

1) Next Meeting:

The next Community Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 1:35 p.m.

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