

DIXIE SUN ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

February 15, 2011

Attendance: Dale Porter, Desiree Mortenson, Jason Godfrey, Leslie Bosworth, Isabel Lopez, Jerry Olson, and Evelyn Porras

Agenda Items:

Updates:

- Jerry Olson, representative for the Dixie Sun Action Committee, attended this meeting. He also has students here at school, serves as the Legislative Chair on PTA, and was assigned to attend school board meetings. He is now a non-voting member of the Community Council. He plans to speak to parents tonight as they view the movie, "Speaking in Tongues" and give them some handouts about dual immersion schools in Utah. He will also make the parents more aware of Senate Bill 41 that went through to support bilingual education, a dual language law throughout the State of Utah. Jerry feels that the School Board really needs to hear from parents, teachers, and council members. Employees of the district can't go to the district unless they're invited or are a parent. He feels that the school board is under educated about dual immersion and/or are apathetic about it.
- Trustlands video- Some council members still need to view the video "A Matter of Trust" and Mrs. Mortenson emailed the website for us to watch the video. Council members should sign the manila envelope when they have finished viewing it.

New Items:

- Trustland Funds - Dale Porter attended a meeting for principals in which there was a discussion of upcoming legislative proposals. He spoke briefly about an initiative to abolish the State School Board. All the power would then reside with the governor and Secretary of Education. Funding was also discussed at the meeting. The legislature asked the State School Board to give them a list of items that could be cut from the Education Budget. There are two tiers of budget cuts that they would like listed. The first tier would be considered items that could be cut. The second tier is items that are preferred not to be cut but could be if necessary. The Sorenson music program could be cut and the other big item is high impact funds. These help to pay teacher salaries and the Steps Program where students are tutored one on one. Dixie Sun Elementary has about 80 to 90 kids that are tutored in reading. The Steps program has really shown to be effective and is monitored for progress and is well proven. In Washington County, DSE is the only school that is using the Steps program so it is just a pilot trial for now. If Steps Program were to go away, then Trust Lands money may be needed to recover that. The reporting date of the use of trust lands monies is in April and the legislative decisions about budget cuts will be made at the end of March. So, the community council will postpone finalizing the trust land monies decisions until after March.
- Magnet Schools- The school board voted to do an evaluation of Dixie Sun Elementary at the end of this school year. They're going to look up and review all of our test data. Dale Porter spoke to Brad Ferguson who oversees data and statistics. The school board is going

to look at Dixie Sun Elementary School specifically possibly because the school board perceives that DSE is a school-in-trial or experimental. Laura Hesson, the president of the school board, did not originally vote in favor of the dual immersion program. DSE gets more funds than other schools. The evaluation will happen during the summer. The school board wants to see student outcomes and student data from testing. DSE has done well in this area and with AYP and UALPA tests. Scores have gone steadily upward. 81% passed the math core test last year and 71% passed the language arts test. Dale Porter prefers to see the tests achieved one more time. Compared to the rest of the district, DSE's scores are kind of in the middle. Greg Roberts has not yet come down to St. George to share what is going on with Dual Immersion in the State. The school board did, in the end, vote to have DSE become bilingual. Only, it is not clear that they have decided whether to keep the program or not. Dale Porter explained that when you have a group of parents who sincerely express what they want, it's hard for the school board to say no. They need to feel like parents, teachers, and the community wants the program to stay.

Next meeting- March 9, 2011 @ 3:45pm