

# DIXIE SUN ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 25, 2011

Attendance: Dale Porter, Desiree Mortenson, Jason Godfrey, Leslie Bosworth, Isabel Lopez

Agenda Items:

Updates:

- Spanish Curriculum-more material has come in.
- Magnet schools- Jerry Olson, Businessman in town and has students here at school, was assigned by PTA to address the board. He also contacted Greg Roberts from the state and is very supportive of Bilingual program. He wants to invite our public to see "Four Worlds" in February some time and he gave copy to the board. He made the board aware of legislation that went through to support bilingual education, law 150 which is a dual language law. He used the law to latter pursue Magnet school option. We want to advertize publicly through our schools through the cone sites and adopt a different math curriculum that is in both languages. We just need an okay to be able to move toward with a different math curriculum. Magnet school option may not be necessary if we are allowed to be independent with advertizing and math curriculum. State has flyer that we can use to recruit more students.
- Student numbers- around 515, which is a little lower than Mr. Porter would like to see at our school.
- Continuation of bilingual schools-Lava Ridge: Rex Wilkey, Assistant superintendent, wants to hire our bilingual teachers to teach first class over there. They said this was doable but we don't know what would happen when it comes time for it. We need to see what the state has planned for intermediate school/high school.
- Trustlands video- Need to view and Mrs. Mortenson will also email the website for us to see the video.

New Items:

- Dixie Sun Action Committee-New committee that focuses on what is happening in the community around school. This is particular to our school. 21<sup>st</sup> century grant requires us to have this committee and now we have it organized. Trying to deal with community issues using agencies in community to our neighborhood. Police department wants us to get more cameras to put out in the park, which is owned by district but leased to city, so this committee can get cameras not police department. Mr. Porter feels that we need one person from Community Council should be part of Action Committee. To distinguish between the two, Community Council generally deals with issues within school. Action committee generally deals with neighborhood issues around the school. There will be some overlap with the two committees.
- Finalize Trustlands- We receive about \$20,000 each year. It has been used for teacher intervention before/afterschool & violin program, which is about \$4000. Teacher interventions are teacher chosen subject and specific work. From years past, if \$4000 is used for violin and the rest has been used on teacher interventions. Violin program needs to

come out of Trustlands as it can not be paid out of any other budget. Since we challenge students in Language Arts with our Bilingual program, Mr. Godfrey would like to propose that we use some of the funds to challenge the students more in math. In other words, we challenge in language with the bilingual, can we challenge our students for math? Example, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students doing algebra, 5<sup>th</sup> grade doing geometry, etc... Mr. Porter mentioned a program called "First in Math", which is a network of children working to challenge each other at a national level. It is self directed activities on the computer where children can go play games and it ranks them with other students in the nation. We could get a vendor to explain the program or talk to someone from Bloomington Hills who is using the program. The program has a yearly fee of \$7 dollars per student. A program like this would help to reinforce math concepts in English that are taught in Spanish. Are there literacy programs that are similar? We have an English program called "Great Books" that is open-ended. The teacher guides discussion but it is student directed. We have no deadline yet on when we need budget finalized but deadline will come soon. Since we don't have a deadline, we will continue to discuss these questions: Can we set aside some money to learn about a program in best practices? Spend a year to learn about a program that would work to challenge our students in math? We can use some of the money to accelerate math? Yes? How much?

- Magnet Schools-Mrs. Mortenson discussed the results of her research on magnet schools and found that the schools seem to have distinguishing characteristics. They have a recruiting system like a lottery and admissions criteria. The down turn of our student populations this year has been uniforms and the current economy. We want to continue to pursue this option for our school.

Next meeting- February 15, 2011 @ 3:45pm