

Dixie Sun Elementary
Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Nov. 30, 2017

Attending: Jill Udi (parent), Jamie Farnsworth (faculty), Becki Basso (parent), Cristina Cortez (parent), Kim Heiki (principal), Glen Anderson (staff), Cynthia Cruz (faculty), Anamarie Jorgensen (parent) and Jill Hunt (parent).

Approval of Minutes from prior meeting: Jill Hunt motioned, Jamie Farnsworth approved. All approved.

Vote on Vice-Chair: Jillian Udi nominated, Becki Basso second nomination and all approved.

Agenda Items:

1. Safety Patrol had all of their hats and safety items donated.
2. Communication to parents: the council discussed ways in which communication can be increased between teachers and parents. The idea is to increase understanding of where the students are at academically in between parent/teacher conferences so parents can know if their students are falling behind. Unified Classroom is used in 3rd-5th grade where parents can access it (online and mobile app) to check grades, view assignments, etc. The 3rd grade is currently using Google Classroom where they're able to chart their assessments whereas Unified Classroom/PowerSchool is more assignment based which doesn't follow what is done at the elementary level.
3. Data Review and progress with new schedule, clubs and interventions
4. Identify greatest academic needs:
 - a. The two highest needs for Dixie Sun Elementary are:
 - i. Phonics/Literacy: Increase the phonemic awareness in all grades. There are still K-5th graders that don't know basic letters & sounds (both English and Spanish native speakers). They are running an assessment to see if the gaps in Spanish are a language issue or a phonics issue. The council recognizes that there are gaps in these basic skills and that filling this gap will increase their ability to read at higher levels and testing will improve.
 - ii. Science: overall the school bombed last year in this category for end-of-year testing. Dixie Sun had a 11% passing in science (drop from 23% the previous year with a state goal of 48-50% and a district goal of 52%). There were gaps being missed and Ms. Reynolds and all teachers have created a new strategy to teach and implement science to make sure these gaps are closed going forward.
 - iii. Professional Development is being tailored to help with these two greatest academic needs at Dixie Sun.

B. Lexi & iReady Software: Grades K-2 use Lexi and grades 3rd-5th use iReady for additional instruction and practice on devices at school. There is a math and reading components. They include targeted lessons on areas the students need improvement on in language arts, reading and math. It provides scores immediately so that teachers can see if a student is understanding or not understanding topics/teachings/methods and so forth. This immediate data helps to give the student more targeted instruction.

The companies that provide this software state that doing a minimum of 45 minutes of Math and 45 minutes of reading (daily or weekly?!?) that the students will improve to be at or above grade level. The scores from this software correlate to how they're going to do and the end of the year.

5. Additional funding from Trust Land Funds

It was discussed that Dixie Sun would be receiving additional funding from the Trust Lands; however, the final number was not known. The council was confident that we could approve the request from Ms. Reynolds, the science teacher, to have additional funding to purchase materials needed for science curriculum. As this is one of our greatest academic needs, the proposal to fund \$519.90 to science was motioned for approval by Becki, seconded by Annamarie and all approved unanimously.

Additional Info:

- Becki had proposed ideas for consideration as we discuss Trust Land Budget for the next meeting. Some of her ideas include more 1:1 time with students, summer school program, adding phonics into the music program and other certificates/awards for when academic targets are met.
- Glen mentioned that he is looking at a button/pin machine to create some awards for achieving goals.
- Question was asked if the clubs could be highlighted on the school Web site. This helps parents who already have kids attending know all the clubs that are offered and allows prospective parents to see what all takes place and is offered at Dixie Sun.
- Kristen Olsen is currently teaching parents how to use computers 3x/month. This is from how to e-mail, to other great basic skills. There is an average of about 12-20 parents in each class so far.

Motion to adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 22nd at 3 pm