

Orchard Elementary School Community Council Meeting October 11, 2016

Members Present—Aaron Stevenson (Principal Representative), Jeff Shirley (Employee Representative), Melissa Jones (Employee Representative), Susan Phillips (Employee Representative), Melanie Hunter (SCC Chair), Rachael Sulz (Parent Representative), Crescent Page (Parent Representative), Gabriela Larsen (Parent Representative), Sara Hacken (School Board Candidate), Megan Snow (Parent Representative)

Members absent: Diane Flickinger

- 1. Welcome**—Mr. Stevenson welcomed the members of the Council. He introduced Mrs. Hunter, who is the SCC Chair. He thanked all members for being here and explained the purpose of our Council. He turned the time to each member of the Council to introduce themselves.
- 2. Candidate for School Board: Sara Hacken**—Sara introduced herself and explained her educational background and her interests in obtaining the School Board position for the District 7. She talked about her history with school community councils and how valuable they are in helping a school progress. She said her bottom line in education is ‘Helping children succeed.’ She is excited about the amount of Trustland monies we have to meet the needs of our students. Mrs. Snow asked her, “What are the things you think we’re struggling with?” Sara answered, “Teacher retention.” She explained that 35% of teachers in Alpine School District have taught 5 years or less. Mrs. Snow also asked, “How can we keep them?” Sara answered, “We can make sure we have a strong mentor program. Without a good mentor, young teachers will quit.” Mrs. Larsen asked, “When new teachers are struggling, what can we do as parents to help?” Sara answered, “If you have a child in a class where a teacher is struggling, give them cues about their child to let them know how your child reacts to things.” She noted that doing so will help the child and the teacher find success.
- 3. Review of Responsibilities**—Mr. Stevenson thanked Sara for coming and then he passed out a sheet explaining different roles of members in community councils. He said one of our biggest responsibilities is looking at ways we can continue to improve our practices to help students. He said that

each parent who is part of the Council will have their emails posted on the school website so other patrons can contact them if questions or issues arise.

4. **Review/Vote on Rules and Procedures**—Mr. Stevenson explained that as part of a SCC, we're subject to the Open Meeting Act, and all of our notes are published for the public to know about what was discussed. It's our responsibility to have rules and orders and procedure to help our meetings run smoothly. If there are opportunities where a consensus cannot be made, we will default to our Rules of Order and Procedure. Mr. Stevenson gave the Council a few minutes to look over the Rules of Order and Procedure. He also explained that if there are any motions to be discussed, someone must 'second' the vote and all votes in favor or opposition are recorded as such. Mrs. Larsen asked what happens if motions are tied, and Mr. Stevenson said the motion will be abolished in this case. Mr. Stevenson made a motion to approve these rules, and Mrs. Larsen seconded this motion. All members were in favor.

5. **Discuss/Vote on Increase Distribution**—Mr. Stevenson began by stating that we have \$18,000 of increased distribution allocated from Trustlands. These monies come from lands that the state sells or rents specifically for Trustlands. Over the course of the year, interest is gained and each school is allocated an amount based on enrollment. Mr. Stevenson proposed that we allocate money toward an aide to assist in 2nd Grade, which is a position that has been posted. Mrs. Snow asked what is wrong in 2nd grade necessitating an aide, and Mr. Stevenson explained that nothing is wrong; this grade level is just in need of some extra support to meet the needs of our students in the DLI side of 2nd Grade. Mr. Stevenson also proposed that we look to hire this aide to assist with progress monitoring with the DIBELS program. Mrs. Sulz asked if class sizes are normally smaller in the lower grades, and Mr. Stevenson explained that this is usually the case in grades K-3 to meet the needs of the students. Mrs. Snow wondered how we could use the \$18,000 for 2 aides, and Mr. Stevenson explained that there are times when aides take time off which helps us recoup some of these monies. Mrs. Larsen asked, "What is the difference between the aides and abuelitos and abuelitas?" Mr. Stevenson explained that these individuals are part of the Foster Grandparent Program, and while they are incredibly valuable, they not utilized throughout the entire school like an aide would be, as they are assigned just to a specific classroom. Mrs. Jones said that it's often a challenge with these Foster Grandparents because they often have limited English skills. Mrs. Sulz mentioned that it's a huge benefit to have an extra adult in our classrooms to help work with students. Mrs. Snow wondered if we should make a motion to make a motion to find 2 aides. Mrs. Hacken

asked, “How many hours does an aide work a week?” Mr. Stevenson said it’s right around 25 hours. Mrs. Snow made a motion for us to use this \$18,000 for additional aides, and Mrs. Hunter seconded this motion. All members were in favor of this motion.

6. Discuss Internet and Online Safety Committee—Mr.

Stevenson explained that one of the responsibilities of SCC is to discuss ways to monitor our track our technology safety. Courtney Stratton has been in charge of this aspect of the Council, and he explained that we are looking to find a new person to chair this Internet Safety Committee. He also said we’re looking to for a person to assume these duties and invited all the members to consider this responsibility so we can discuss it at our next meeting.

7. Set Dates for Future Meetings—Mr. Stevenson said that in the past, the SCC has traditionally held meetings on the second Tuesday, and these meetings last between an hour to an hour and a half. The Council decided on the following dates: November 15, January 10, February 22, March 14, and April 11 (if needed). Each meeting will be held in the library, and will be at 3:45 pm.

8. Community Concerns—Mrs. Snow noted that she has been concerned about the pickup/dropoff zones and are having their children run across the lane closest to the school to pickup or drop them off in the left lane, which is dangerous. Mr. Stevenson mentioned that he is sending out a reminder to parents to properly use of the drop off/pickup zone, and to pull forward to the curb. Mrs. Phillips also mentioned that she has heard complaints about the new Hawk system. Mr. Shirley asked her to clarify, and she said that people have told her they are confused by how the lights work. Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Shirley explained their concern that the system is not being used as it was initially intended by the city crossing guard. He invited anyone who feels concerned about this Hawk system to contact Orem city.

9. Other