



***Orchard Elementary
School Community Council Meeting
February 22, 2017***

Members Present—Aaron Stevenson (Principal Representative), Jeff Shirley (Employee Representative), Melissa Jones (Employee Representative), Melanie Hunter (SCC Chair), Megan Snow (Parent Representative), Sara Hacken (School board representative), Aerwyn Whitlock (District Community Council representative)

Members absent: Cressent Page, Rachael Sulz, Diane Flickinger, Gabriela Larsen

1. Welcome—Mr. Stevenson welcomed all members of the Council to the meeting. Sara Hacken asked Mr. Stevenson to expound upon the high class size concern that was brought up in the Orem cluster meeting. Mr. Stevenson said that we have had many instances where students have moved into Orchard boundaries from other countries, without any experience in English speaking schools, necessitating the need for these students to be placed in Spanish DLI classes. Mrs. Phillips, who is our ALS coordinator at Orchard, mentioned that we are required by the district to place these students into the DLI classrooms to best meet their academic needs.

Sara Hacken—She is excited about our STEM action grants, and how they are very helpful, and we're going in a great direction. She recognizes how important it is to have the proper materials and training to help teachers be successful.

Melissa Jones—She mentioned that she is concerned that there are not enough substitutes to meet the needs of our students, what can be done about this? Mr. Stevenson said that it's a challenge, but there have always been classes that we've been able to cover, although it's been stressful. Mrs. Phillips said that teachers often work sick so that her students' time is utilized effectively because substitutes often have limited teaching experience.

Aerwyn Whitlock—She mentioned that district changed the restrictions have been removed for substitutes who only want to work in specific classes. Prior to the beginning of the school year, substitutes had to work at least 5 days a month in order to qualify for this option with Kelly Services.

Mr. Shirley—He noted that we do recognize that this is an added stress to teachers who are sick at home and are often worried about their students at school instead of taking care of their own health at home.

Sara Hacken—This problem was discussed today at the cluster meeting, and it something that she's going to address again at her next school board meeting. She mentioned that a big concern we're having out in the west schools is getting people who are not wanting to take these positions because of the distance factor.

Mr. Stevenson—With our economy being healthy right now, people look for other opportunities instead of being a substitute. Despite the concerns mentioned, we'll continue to invest some thought into this issue.

2. Winter DIBELS Benchmark—Mr. Stevenson began this discussion saying we just finished our winter testing for DIBELS. He showed a graph showing the trends that are consistent with Alpine School District. He said he has also seen gains from our extended day Kindergarten.

Melanie Hunter—Why did 3rd grade go down?

Mr. Stevenson—The are great questions to have and this data drives our discussions. In addition, it gives us data points to track and discuss.

Aerwyn Whitlock—She mentioned that it's important to realize as well that the tests for middle of year DIBELS have other elements that were different than what they were tested at during the beginning of the year.

Mr. Stevenson—He then showed a graph showing a further breakdown of all the students who were tested during the beginning of the year DIBELS tests, compared to the middle of year DIBELS tests. This breakdown shows how many students moved from one category to another, for example from red to yellow, or from yellow to green, etc. This data shows that 92% of our students that were green maintained their green status. The great thing about the data that is given to us in Amplify is that it helps is see which students specifically that

we can intervene for to target their needs. He mentioned that we're continuing to dive into this data, and that there are other specific reports that target more teacher data, so that we can get our goal of 90% proficient.

Megan Snow—Are we able to tell students who are red that their child needs resource? Mr. Stevenson mentioned that we are progress monitoring these students and giving them interventions that are targeted to the areas they may be lacking in. Mr. Shirley mentioned that we are seeing more greens in the 3rd and 2nd grades in the DLI classroom compared to our English only classrooms. Mr. Stevenson said we often have very involved parents in our DLI classrooms, which helps these students show more proficiency.

Mrs. Jones mentioned that the students that we are seeing struggle the most are the ones with attendance problems. Mr. Stevenson asked Mr. Shirley to expound upon this. Mr. Shirley mentioned that we stay in close contact with teachers in tracking students whose absences are affecting their academic performance, but typically after 10 absences, or if a child is on track to be chronically absent. This is when we intervene to help parents realize the importance of attendance. He also mentioned that in extreme cases, we do get a district social worker involved to help parents know of the resources that are available to them to help their child be at school.

3. 2016-2017 Trustland Spending Amendments—

a. Approx. \$15,000

Mr. Stevenson—We planned for our spending of Trustland funds, and there are some factors that have led to our overage. First, some of our aides have not worked their full allotment of time, due to family emergencies, and this money has not been used. Another aide has been volunteering her time due to some personal immigration issues, and this money was not utilized as a result. He said we're confident that this approximation of \$15,000 will be utilized this year and he said he will be open to any ideas to help utilize this money to the best need.

Aerwyn Whitlock—Can this money be used for DIBELS for 4th-6th? Mr. Stevenson mentioned that this will be something we're looking at for next year.

Mr. Stevenson—Some of our main ideas include a BTS grant. This grant is an 80/20 grant. As we're at 1/3 of the school year left, we're looking at about \$3000 to fund a BTS teacher. This teacher would be a highly qualified arts teacher, for example, one who would have a college degree in a specific content

area, such as music, where they could teach any grade level with their expertise in specific content focus on the arts. He said the areas the BTS grant includes are: media arts, drama, dance, or music. We would like to utilize a side by side teaching model, integrating content with the main classroom teacher.

Aerwyn Whitlock: She mentioned that over at Foothill, the BTS teacher moved from each classroom, throughout the school, working side by side with teachers to use drama to enhance student learning. Mr. Stevenson said he and Mr. Shirley recently attended a STEAM conference at Weber State, which expounded upon the integration of the arts and how it could look like in the classroom. He mentioned that he spoke to a BTS teacher at Hidden Hollow, and she has developed a music curriculum to tie directly to what the classroom teachers are currently teaching.

Mr. Stevenson—Our classroom teachers have also appreciated the funds that have been allocated to get resources, supplies, or other types of activities that support their core. He said he would like to see more of our resources to be given to teachers. He also said he would like to allocate resources for another cart of Chromebooks.

Mrs. Snow—She motioned to approve the spending \$8000 for chrome books, 2800 for classroom STEM resources, and \$3000 for BTS, and other funds for aides. Mrs. Hunter seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mrs. Hunter asked to amend the motion, saying that if we have over \$15000, this goes to teachers. All were in favor.

4. 2017-2018 Budget—

- a. \$64,386 (Tentative)**

Mr. Stevenson—We went from about \$43K to \$64, so we'll have some great options to look at in terms of professional learning, conferences, and other resources to continue the success we're having.

5. Discussion of 2017-2018 Needs—

6. Adjournment—Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm. The next meeting will take place on March 14.