

GRANITE ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES: January 23, 2017

ATTENDING: Ronnie Mulqueen, Katie Dahle, Kelly Frye, Jami Nielsen, Misti Milner, Heather Oakeson, Terri Petersen, LeRoy Veal, Jessica Singer, and Erin Richards

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: The meeting began at 4:15 p.m.

REVIEW MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER MEETING: No comments, additions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RESIGNATION: Crystal Lowenberg has resigned from the SCC due to a new work schedule that conflicts with SCC meeting times.

SNAP Plan: Ronnie has prepared the safe walk route plan. Everything is remaining the same, but we are still asking for sidewalks, additional signage and/or flashing lights on 3100 East. The "Exit Only" sign from the parking lot on 3100 East will be installed when the snow melts. Katie suggested adding paint on the ground of the entrance in addition to signage.

LANDTRUST SPENDING UPDATE: We have spent \$4,500 to purchase equipment / software for students (Flocabulary, etc.) Ronnie is putting in an order for some additional iPads. We have \$1,000 for an internet safety assembly for students and parents, but we are having a hard time getting a speaker. Heather had some ideas and will spend some time looking into finding a speaker. Ronnie asked us to give some thought as to how to spend additional funds we are expecting next year. It has to be tied to academics and needs to demonstrate student growth.

STATE COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRAINING: Katie attended the state's community council training. She stated that they reviewed responsibilities of SCCs and stressed the importance of communicating with our community. She also informed the group of the "Our Schools Now" initiative, which is a plan to increase state income tax by .08% and the funds raised would go directly into education. It is estimated that this would increase funding by about \$1,000 per student. The proposed legislation would require that these funds go directly to students.

PARENT SURVEY: Although our school received high marks, Ronnie saw a theme of parents wanting more communication from teachers about their student. All teachers have given Ronnie information about how they communicate with parents. The most popular way was through e-mail. The teachers / staff like having the paper trail that e-mail provides. Quite a few said they communicated with parents through the students' take-home folders or planners. Home notes are used and some teachers send test results, newsletters, use Instagram, Facebook, or face-to-face meetings. Most of the members of the SCC felt that parents would welcome information about behavior or academic problems before receiving report cards. Also, most parents want information about curriculum, due dates, event dates.

HOMEWORK: Ronnie has also seen more parents express frustration about homework. She feels that the staff needs to provide more support to parents to let them know how to help their students. She stressed that the issue seems to be the programs that the school district requires teachers to use. They

require teachers to teach things a specific way, which can frustrate parents. Erin suggested implementing a math program with the additional Land Trust funds we are anticipating.

**RESILIENCY PROGRAM:** Ronnie reviewed parts of Chapter 8 in the **OVERLOADED AND UNDERPREPARED** book. The chapter focuses on how we can create an environment that is healthy for all aspects of our kids' lives. The author suggests focusing on PDF: Playtime, Downtime, and Family time. The author feels that children need time in these three areas every day for optimal health and school engagement. It allows them to thrive physically, mentally, and academically. Ronnie challenged the SCC to think about how we could encourage this theme in our community. She asked everyone to come with ideas for our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.