

GRANITE ELEMENTARY

SCC MEETING

October 6, 2014

ATTENDING: Ronnie Mulqueen, Kelly Frye, Lori Anderson, Misti Milner, Wendy Hamann, LeRoy Veal, Mark Oyler, Michelle Larsen, and Crystal Lowenberg.

WELCOME: Ronnie Mulqueen began the meeting at 4:00 p.m. She welcomed everyone and introduced Crystal Lowenberg as a potential new SCC member. Tiffany Smith has a scheduling conflict and no longer can be on the SCC. An updated SCC Contact Sheet was distributed.

REPORT CARDS: Report cards will not be given out at Parent-Teacher conferences this year. Instead, Student Education Plans will be reviewed. Report cards will be distributed during the week of November 17 – 21. The presentation of the report card will look different. Students will be evaluated based on where they should be at this point in time during the school year. Conferences are being held earlier to discuss expectations, discuss Student Education Plans, and let parents know what needs to happen to keep kids on track for the rest of the school year. As a result, the hope is that students will have plenty of time to make changes or get extra support. They have condensed and consolidated the report cards and the feeling is that the new report cards are more user friendly.

LAND TRUST SUMMARY: The 2013 / 2014 goal was supporting our reading intervention program. The SCC decided to maintain the same goal for the 2014 / 2015 school year. We need to report by October 20th our performance results from last year. Ronnie reviewed the report the reading intervention team put together for last year. The first grade goal was to increase 1.7 words per week and the actual result was 3 words per week. Second grade's goal was 1.65, actual was 2.4. Third grade's goal was 1.7, actual was 2. Lori asked if we started to include Kindergarten in the reading intervention program because Kindergarten kids were not reaching benchmarks. Ronnie clarified that we had additional Land Trust funds available and the SCC decided to expand the program to Kindergarten to reach kids who needed reading help earlier. She also said that our school always has 18% - 21% of kids who don't reach benchmark. Our school is very comparable to other schools in our area. Most schools use their land trust money for reading intervention. Last year, we chose to hire 2 assistants to work with reading intervention with our Land Trust funds. We also hired substitutes to do a character education classes for kids once per month so teachers could meet for general training. We also spent a small amount of money on supplies for the intervention program. Ronnie also reviewed the AMS Report (reading benchmarks). The group reviewed the growth of the kids from the beginning of the year to the end of the year as far as benchmark is concerned. The testing criteria gets harder as the year progresses. Benchmark is 80%.

SCC FOLDER / CSIP GOALS: The group reviewed the CSIP plan. The literacy goal is the same as the Land Trust goal. There is also a math goal (STEM).

SAGE RESULTS: Last year's Sage Testing results come out on October 20th. Ronnie has been told that 80% of the schools in the state received Ds and Fs. Families will be getting a postcard with some information about Sage. This test is not comparable with the CRTs (the old test). This new testing system was stressful for teachers and students. Everyone expects scores to drop. The Sage test is not a great indicator of what is happening within the school. Sage is Utah's name for the test used to assess common core skills. The questions come from a national database. Utah pulls questions from this bank. The state mandates the core curriculum and the school district mandates the tools that are used to meet the core curriculum. We are now trying to teach our kids how to do more than regurgitate memorized answers. It has been difficult for parents to assist their children because parents learned differently.

STAFFING CHALLENGES: Our student population is around 400 children. We will probably continue to be allocated 14 general education teachers for several more years, as we don't anticipate a dramatic change to our student population. Currently, we have full fourth and fifth grade classes, one full Kindergarten class, and full second grade classes. Our student population figures don't show that we are close to being able to be allocated an additional aide from the school district. Parents can ask, but there is no guarantee that the district will say yes. (Recently, a group of parents lobbied at the district for an aide in Kindergarten and they were successful.) The group brainstormed some different ways to combat the larger class sizes in these areas. Some of the ideas included:

- Create a second / third grade split
- Have 3 teachers guaranteed in first, second and third grade, and all splits in 4th and 5th grades
- Use Land Trust money next year to hire an aide, but that would take almost half of the funds we are allocated and would impact the reading intervention program
- PTA search for qualified teachers as volunteers to come in and help
- Parents lobbying the school district for an aide in second grade

Crystal asked if the school district does a survey to help project headcount. Ronnie wasn't sure and said she would ask. Lori asked if we could bring other programs to the school to draw more students. Ronnie said that with Special Ed classes being taught at Granite Elementary, we wouldn't be eligible for other types of programs (dual immersion, etc.).

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.