

## Washington Elementary Community Council Minutes 1/25/2017

In attendance: Kelly Mitchell, Carrie Neilson, Natasha Isom, Brandon Bulow, Pamela Stephenson, Teri Pay (Science Teacher)

Not in attendance: Katie Cluff

7:35: Previous minutes were read by Julie Smith. Carrie Neilson moved to approve the minutes. Pam Stephenson seconded the motion.

7:42 The council discussed the spending report. All of the funds from Trust lands were spent to fund having a science teacher.

7:43: Teri Pay explained what has been taught in science this year. She talked about integrating other subjects with science. She is using the state core to drive her instruction. Teri showed the council the textbook that has been created by the state. Title One purchased the textbooks for grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. The students get to write in their textbooks and glue their experiments in them. The students use them as an interactive notebook. Mrs. Pay shared the results of a stakeholder survey regarding science. The overall feedback is very positive. Mrs. Pay talked about how much planning and time is spent on preparation for science and the hands on activities that she is able to do. She explained that she focuses on depth of knowledge levels 3 and 4 in science. Mrs. Pay talked about having scientist come into the classroom and using a webcam to access additional resources. Behavior problems have not been an issue because the students are engaged. Mr. Mitchell explained that there are a few other schools with science teachers, so Mrs. Pay is able to meet with them for a PLC.

7:58 Julie Smith shared the feedback from teachers. Teachers are overall very happy about science. They feel that it is engaging and the students love it. Some teachers would like to start science in August. Some teachers would like to have more time in science. A few teachers would like to have some prep during science.

8:01: Mr. Mitchell explained the most current Dibels data. The students in K-3<sup>rd</sup> grades were tested this month. First grade made exceptional growth. This grade level is the one that has the most aides and support.

8:03 Mr. Mitchell told the council that the Dixie Direct Fundraiser raised over \$5000. This money was used to purchase science kits from the district.

8:04 Mr. Mitchell explained how Title One Funding is utilized and how our school qualifies. Our school is low on the Title One list. The council discussed the benefit of Title One funds and

things we can do to inform parents about the importance of filling out the free and reduced lunch funds.

8:10 The council talked about how impressed they were with science. Carrie Neilson talked about staying the course and seeing how things play out. She talked about Mrs. Pay making science fun and setting the foundation that will be effective for years. Natasha Isom talked about the importance of making learning fun. Mrs. Stephenson told about how using inferences applies to her writing and Close Reading. The council agreed that they are in support of keeping science.

8:13 Natasha Isom talked about starting a homework club at the schools. She said that she would want to arrange for around 5 volunteers to come every Thursday to help kids with their homework. Brandon Bulow said that he would be interested to see the percentage of students that turn their homework in. Mrs. Stephenson said that she has 7 students that consistently turn in their homework. She has started using her math homework page as her bell work. Natasha Isom said that she will look into setting this program up. She mentioned that Kohls, Joanns, and Red Robin employees have said that they would like to volunteer. The council discussed that the gym would be the best place to hold the program and Wednesday afternoons would be the best time.

8:21 Carrie Neilson asked if we wanted to discuss anything to do with funding other than paying for an intern. The council discussed paying for science again and putting any additional funding toward reading aides. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that there is a small chance that he would be able to fund having a science teacher through regular funds. Several members of the council said that they would like to keep class sizes small and fund science.

8:26 Brandon Bulow made the comment that Mrs. Pay had mentioned how much preparation science was requiring. He was concerned that she get the time she needs to prepare and didn't want her to get burned out. Mr. Mitchell explained that she gets to use Friday as prep now, but hasn't had that in the past. It was also discussed that she has been creating the program this year and that next year she should have a schedule set and should have a better idea of what to do. Brandon Bulow pointed out that she needs to have support to ensure she does not get burned out.

8:30 Carrie Neilson clarified that everyone on the council was okay with science as long as Mrs. Pay receives the time and support that she needs to be successful.

8:32 Carrie Neilson thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.