daybreak elementary

Community Council Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2017 | 9:00 a.m. | Meeting called to order by Andrea Sam

# In Attendance (10)

Doree Strauss, Dianna Karren, Nancy Kertamus, Ann Wilson, Rachel Grey, Katherine Harbaugh, Andrea Sam, Delani Mason, Keila Mower, Kristie Howe, Chip Dawson

# Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Rachel motioned to approve minutes, Dianna seconded. Board unanimously approved.

# Recess Guidelines

Principal Straus reported that a few local news stations will be reporting tomorrow about how we handle indoor recess at Daybreak Elementary. Doree decided to do something different this year based on parent inquiries and her own observations. She is also very proactive about student safety and creative about accommodating our students inside the school The district does not set an overall policy for all elementary schools therefore, the school principals collaborate with nearby schools to set a flexible common sense policy. Right now, the decision to have an inside day is set around 23 degrees. The 6th graders always get a choice.

She is working with the district to get more latitude on movie choices, because there are not very many G rated movies.

If it is an indoor movie day, teachers are required to have their students participate in a 20-minute movement activity from Go Noodle or another approved website.

Doree introduced POD Activities to alternate with movie days. POD activities are supervised and implemented by recess aids. She has purchased board games and crafts activities that are used to entertain the kids indoors. It is a high priority to our principal that teachers have a duty-free lunch. This model may be adopted and used at other schools in the district.

# Changes in Relation to Traditional Schedule

We don’t have a schedule yet because we are still waiting for the district to announce school boundaries. This decision will hopefully be announced at the school board meeting January 24th at 7pm. There are three possibilities: traditional, modified traditional and year-round. It was suggested that Option C will work best for us while supporting the wishes of those at Midas Creek. It is predicted that we will most likely end up with a modified traditional schedule. Our student population will be around 800, which will allow us to keep our vice principal, but we will lose a handful of teachers. Doree explained how she decides which teachers she will keep. The teachers know that she expects them to have a good attitude and love their job. This is Dianna’s last year teaching. She has been working with Doree for over 25 years.

It was mentioned that a traditional schedule is about 22 minutes shorter each day than year-round. Also, parent teacher conferences are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays so the teachers get Friday’s off. Most likely no busses. Everyone is excited for several reasons for the change to a more traditional schedule.

Katherine has been campaigning to be on the district calendar committee without success. Doree has also submitted her name to volunteer.

# Math Tournament

Date is Aril 6th. Deadline to register is tomorrow. Currently 18-21 schools will be participating. Wendy Babcock is going to be the MIC. Andrea will help get the snacks from Chic-fil-a (cookies) and McDondalds (apple slices). There are both donated for free! Rachel will try to get the water donated from Walmart. There are approx. 300 participants. Katherine will ask Kristie Despain for restaurant certificates.

# Allergy Awareness

Keila Mower spoke up about awareness and empathy about kids with allergies. She wants to advocate this awareness at Daybreak Elementary and in the State Legislature considering recent incidents in the news. Principal Strauss gave us a very detailed update and will allow Keila to coordinate posters and literature to be used to promote awareness at Daybreak. Just yesterday, all the teachers were trained by nurse Katie on using epi pens. The teachers asked tons of questions and Katie covered almost every possible emergency scenario imaginable. It was pointed out that teachers are just as concerned as the parents and want be prepared and prevent a student having an allergy reaction. Most situations can be eliminated with teacher/parent communication. Overall, we just want to create an educated environment to ensure the safety of and empathy for our students. Some things that will be happening to create this awareness:

* Posters at the school
* Literature education sent home to parents
* Katie the nurse will be training students at other schools and advocate awareness at the district level
* Katie will also follow up with any teachers that missed the training
* Subs will be given laminated instruction sheet for each class (provided by the teacher)
* Collaboration assembly for students will be scheduled with Teri Forsyth for student awareness
* Principal Straus will research the availability of an extra epi pen to have in the office & other legal issues
* Teacher responsibility to communicate their classroom needs with parents
* Any parent who doesn’t have the money to purchase an epi pen can contact Keila Mower for help

# Super Bowl of Caring

January 30th thru February 17th. This fundraiser fills the principal’s pantry. The Student Council will help promote. Daybreak has successfully participated in this fundraiser for the past several years.

# Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 9 am.