

**Hillcrest Community Council Meeting**  
**May 1, 2014      7:00 A.M.**

Attendance: Jason Pond, JoLynn Carter, Julie Benson, Cort Christensen, Tom Rohrer, Eric Markworth, DeAnn Lichfield, Reed Olson

Welcome: Cort

Approval of Minutes: Motion - Eric, seconded - Jason. Minutes unanimously approved

Follow-up of minutes: Looked for the blog post of input for task force. It has been taken down. We weren't able to get the information.

We had a presentation from Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts program. We met as a staff and decided not to do it. Jason - let's look at this not as a loss. The faculty agreed they didn't want it and we are supportive of taking things off their plate.

Follow-up on meeting with Marshal - personnel issues are not our responsibility, right, etc. Marshal will take care of it. Programs can be implemented by the school, some are mandated from the government. DLI is the only program chosen by the school at this time. STEM will be the primary focus for next year. They will look at programs that can be reduced, but if it is state or federal, it can't be done away with. It takes time for people to adjust, implement, etc. There is opportunity to implement new programs as per staff request. One of the board directives is they want a professional learning community - 4 days set aside for professional development. Students should be building and learning throughout their school years. They shouldn't have to be re-taught in the next grade. As far as coaching/mentoring, a survey will be given to the faculty later this month so that input from the faculty can be given. Julie has been asked to be the community council representative to bring concerns to Eric's attention.

Levy Task Force - We can't have 6 different solutions, all schools will be using the same program. There is \$225,000 available for the STEM program. The Levy Task Force discussed many things and decided to give the teachers professional development, let them research the core and come up with effective ways to teach in a STEM classroom. This year we will focus on science. Each grade across the school will have a science emphasis or a math emphasis or both.

- Will we meet with grade levels across the district? Yes, in the summer and before/after school we will meet with peers across the district to collaborate and figure out good methods to teach these things. The results will have to be measurable so there must be district-wide testing/teaching, etc.

- Tom - Once something is decided we just move forward - no base-line data. Money gets thrown at things but we don't have a plan on how we can measure and evaluate our teaching methods. There is only so much time in the day, what has to give to be able to teach STEM. It seems that STEM is just the latest trend. Give it time seems to be the answer to everything.

- Teacher's frustration is that they don't have textbooks. They are re-teaching a lot of things from year to year. Let's do some hands-on science. We don't have the solution right off the bat. We are just trying to enhance math and science. I think this is putting in the groundwork to make

progress in the STEM subjects.

- Where are we and how do you measure impact over time? No response
- Some teachers don't want more textbooks. One said, "I'm glad we have opportunity to collaborate and do hands-on projects."

Still haven't heard about Leader in Me grant

Training video will be an ongoing project. What do you mean by ongoing? We haven't even started it, we need to work with the faculty and see what their need is.

-Would you get more volunteers if they had something to do when they got here rather than flying blind?

- What exactly are we talking about? When we first started this discussion we wanted some training materials for the Watch DOGS when they came to the school.

- Let's turn this over to the PTA since Watch DOGS is a PTA program. An expectation of what they should do in every classroom with reading intervention. I like the idea of a video that shows some reading strategies.

Is there a program that we do background checks of people that are coming in to volunteer at the school? Currently there is a policy that paid employees must have a background check, volunteers do not.

In our last meeting we wanted to give you a month to look at the School Plan for 2014-2015 and see if changes need to be made. Our teachers are on task and our kids are really rocking it. I think we will meet our goal for the SRI. Goal #2 - Do we want to take science out since we will be focusing on science and need to focus more on math? Goal #3 focuses on Leader in Me and doing a survey so we can assess how that is affecting our students.

- How do we rate the success of Leader in me? There are surveys already in place, happy confident children, academic success will all be a benefit from doing TLIM.

- I think we need to keep both math and science in goal #2. Even though we are focusing on science, I think we still need to gauge progress on math and science.

- Sage tests will be better next year. We will have mid-year tests that will make sure that we are on the right track so we can make adjustments as the year progresses.

- So, we are keeping goal #3? Yes, we can change it at any time.

Motion -Jason, Tom seconded - all approved.

So, #6 will be changed to reflect our vote of today? Yes, forward it to me with the minutes so I can give them to Marshal.

SCC elections - all are staying except Cort, one parent position is open. Will the new council member be chosen by our next meeting? Yes.

JoLyn will serve on the committee to hire Anita Hardy's replacement.

Next meeting: May 22 - we will go over progress on school improvement plan with the data that we will have by then.

Assignment: JoLyn - go to the PTA and ask them to make this video, program for Watch DOGS

Eric - follow-up with Dave Long to see about the background checks policy  
Julie - get input and nominations for the Leader hall of fame