

SCC Notes - November 11, 2008

Present were Ginny Etheridge, Julie Eihausen, Karla Knox, Shawn Kuennen, Michelle Powell, Tyffanee Fugate, Pat Fulmer

Check In

Trust Lands:

We had questioned a negative amount on the previous report and we expect that will be adjusted. We may have more money. We might be able to provide more 6-traits training for 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-year teachers. We may also be able to help with grade levels that go over budget with their literacy-math requests.

Shawn presented the school improvement plan, and Julie questioned the authority of the district to approve or deny use of money by the SCC. When the board approves the SCC budget, then the site council can spend the Trust Land money for the approved items, without further approval from board.

This brings up point that if we make any changes to the Trust Land plan, we need to have it approved up front. There are some provisions for small changes in the plan, as long as the change supports the goal but these need to be approved by the board.

Shawn will have to give a progress report on how the money requested for literacy and math support has been used. Grade levels need to make final orders and let Shawn know what has been spent.

There was discussion on writing prompts and portfolios. Some teachers have not pulled their portfolios. They need to get them.

Aide Position :

Amy Bean is working exclusively in 5th grade and during lunch. This is because of the large class sizes. Trust Land money is also funding another aid for power hour among other grade levels.

Grade levels have modified the power hour schedule by adding time to math or reading. There has been more prep time for the high and low groups. Time considerations have to be considered since the groups are skills placed and flexible. The upper grades have found some problems using power grade. The Powergrade program doesn't seem to support moving grades among the different teachers. Teachers don't seem to have the support to make powergrade work in the elementary school. eMINTS seems to possibly conflict with power hour. The use of the technology becomes complicated. Ask Michele if there is a school in SL that is using eMINTS *and* power hour.

Julie is going to a meeting at the District Office about aligning the election of SCC for the district's schools. She asked for our opinion. Election of SCC members for the district's schools should be aligned so that incoming parents should be able to vote for SCC for that school. Can't be done electronically because state school board will

not accept email vote. Our group seems to like doing it the way we are since there should be a carry over of people who know how to manage money, scheduling, land trust, school improvement. We want to continue voting in April. Karla suggested that Park Record list the dates of the elections and invite parents to vote at their respective schools. We still want term date August 1st. The ballot box was fine with us. If there are 2 positions and only 2 people are nominated, we don't need to have an election.

December 8, Nutcracker assembly at 2:00.

The agenda and meeting dates are to be posted on our web page. Shawn and Susan will see to that.

The AYP question- Shawn has handled that.

We use the School Improvement Plan to guide us through the year and at the end of the year – April, we use it to guide the next year's plan. At the January meeting, Shawn will have the revised budget and we will plan for the rest of the year.

Michelle suggested a way to solve the problem of grading for the 4th and 5th grade power hour. List all the students under the group of teachers so that any teacher can enter grades. Ask JJ or Susan how that might work.

Could we have eMINTS presentation to Site Council so we can see how it is working? Sam Thompson is looking at January to do the presentation to PTO. Maybe he can talk to Site Council, too.

We have to post the minutes and times – in the school, on the door.

Add Shawn to each teacher's parent email list. How should all the information get out to parents – school newsletter – could it be added to the web page – running blog.