

Timberline Middle School
MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
Held Thursday, March 5, 2009

Present: Caroldean Neves, Trisha Walker, Dawn Berbert, Terry Hill, Kathy Knudsen, Devon Tufts, Moana Burgess, Michelle Schirmer.

Excused: Janice Hanson, Amy Black, Ted York, Cathy Jolley, Chrissy Hannemann.

Call to Order: Caroldean called our meeting to order at 3:14pm.

Approval of minutes: Caroldean asked for a motion to approve the minutes from our February 5 meeting. Devon moved to approve the minutes and Terry seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

9th Grade Activity: Devon let us know that the school district has cancelled the 9th grade activity at Lagoon this year (due to budget cuts). Devon met with the 9th graders in the student council and 9th grade class officers. They discussed alternatives to Lagoon. The 9th graders wanted an activity where everyone interacts. They decided they wanted to go to the Legacy Center in Lehi. There is a pool, courts, and a climbing wall. They figured it would cost about \$6-7/person (figuring 200 students), plus bus costs. Devon said this sort of activity would probably require more adult supervision. He was going to contact the Legacy Center manager and see if this would work for them. He wanted the SCC's comments. We liked that it was more affordable. We did question if it would be a private event or not. We felt that if this idea was coming from their peers that the 9th graders should be more receptive to it. Terry told us that the 9th graders have a yearbook activity at the end of the year where they are the first to receive their yearbooks and there's a BBQ for them in the late afternoon.

Adlai Stevenson High School Visit: Terry told us about the recent trip to Chicago (February 23-25) that he and our department chairs took. On their first day there they were met by Tom Mainey, superintendent. He talked to them about "Professional Learning Communities" for a couple of hours. They toured 2 PLC schools there in Chicago, Twin Groves Middle School (10 years PLC) and Adlai Stevenson High School (20 years PLC model). Adlai Stevenson has about 4,500 students. It is its own school district. They have about 500 employees, of which 350 are teachers and lots there are a lot of aides. This school is similar socio-economically to Timberline. Terry reminded us that their student funding is \$11,000/student. Adlai Stevenson's philosophy is not punitive, but as you do well, you earn more privileges. There are certified teachers in study hall; there are privileges offered for tutoring students in study skills (some even earn money for helping with math and language arts). At Twin Groves they have academic interventions: homeroom is totally academic based. If interventions are needed, students are assigned to go to classes where they need help during their ½ hour in homeroom every day. If we were to do that here at Timberline, we'd need to combine Channel One and SSR time. Terry also mentioned that some of the other

schools in our district have done the same visit to Adlai Stevenson and some are scheduled to go.

Terry asked for comments from the SCC. We thought their visit was great. We all wished we had more funding like their schools do. We asked about their class ratios at Adlai Stevenson (about 25/1). We wondered how we could fund for more aides to help. Maybe with Trustlands money?

Trustlands Committee: Kathy informed us that the Trustlands Committee met this morning. She handed out the “2009-2010 Timberline Middle School Land Trust Proposal” (see attached copy). She figured the state was going to cut our funding by about 21%, though there could be more money coming. The committee went over the data (Math, Language Arts and Science CRT scores for 2006, 2007, and 2008). Teachers were invited to tell about their programs that are currently funded by Trustlands money: Barbara Springer told about “Go My Access” and the writing lab; Brad Barker told about tutorial math classes; and Laura Lefler told about “Read 180.” The Trustlands committee voted to continue to support all these programs. Kathy commented that there will probably be some rollover funds from Professional Development. She suggested that we add that to the writing lab aide’s salary. Because so many of our SCC parent members were out today, Terry suggested that Kathy email the proposal to them and get their approval so we can get it turned in by the April deadline.

Q&A: There were a few comments about safety. Dawn said she thought the article in the PTSA Newsletter was short and should have been larger. She asked if we were still going to have a safety week? PTSA would be over a safety week. Trisha asked that CERT training be included in safety week. Terry mentioned that he checked with Peggy in the lunchroom and in the case of an emergency, our kitchen is equipped to feed all our students. Dawn asked how others felt about the Valentine’s dance. She felt like there was a lot of hype but that everyone just stood around and nobody dances. She asked why our dances can’t be held in the gym? Terry said that it would really mark up our floor in there. Terry will suggest that they pull the dance out of the booth area and into the commons area and he agreed that it does need to be in a more contained area. Someone asked if more parent chaperones would help. Terry said past experience has been that parents don’t show. Caroldean gave kudos to the ZAP program. Devon said we still have a problem with intentional non-learners in ZAP.

District SCC: Terry asked Michelle is there was anything from the district SCC. She said the district has asked that we help in getting good press out about our SCC. It was suggested that Caroldean put an article in the PTSA newsletter. It could be called “Community Council Corner.”

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2009.