

School Community Council Meeting Minutes  
(Approved 12-14-17)

**Thursday, November 16, 3:15 p.m. – School Library**

*“...what is in the best interest of the students...”*

1. Welcome – Introductions -- Tracie Sexton, Betsy Kleba, Lisa Warner, Brandon Bennett, Katherine Duncan, Molly Hames, Elissa Wiscomb, Heather Armstrong, Julia Lyon, Stephanie Quintero, Jennifer Hughes, Meghan Looper, Deborah Candler, Heather Cameron-Bevan, Katherine Kennedy, Lynn Rosen, Janet Barnette, Chris Fuller, Rosemary Emery
2. Announcements - none today
3. School Reports
- d. PTA Report – Christine Lipson absent -- Meghan Looper, PTA vice president in attendance -- Art Cards will be given out after Thanksgiving because of backup at printer. Small business fair Friday, Dec. 8 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in auditorium. Any parent who has a small business can set up that Friday to sell their goods and percentage of proceeds goes back to school. The Story Cupboard book fair raised more than \$2,000 for library. Librarian can go back to Story Cupboard warehouse and buy books for library. Gina Roper, a parent, has volunteered to be the new parent liaison so she is working with new parents who have questions or concerns. Sock drive is coming up Dec. 11 to 15. Dec. 13 will be Silly Sock Day. Socks go to a needy cause likely The Road Home. In January, the movie “Screenagers” will be shown -- date still undecided. Thanks goes out to parents who volunteered to bring teacher dinners

during conferences. That is not a typical practice at elementary schools.

- e. SIC Chair Report – Elissa Wiscomb (Report on White Ribbon Week: end of January) -- Not had faculty meeting since SIC so decisions remain, but White Ribbon Week is still being researched -- question on how much time it would use of day. Volunteer parents would provide the training. White Ribbon Week is teaching kids how technology influences their life. Activities and questions prompt discussion. Discussion about having paint removed on little playground because of slipping issues. Figuring out ways to make big playground safer -- nailgun staples found in and around slide. There are ongoing issues of trash and dangerous items though the school has no power to lock the playground. Principal has investigated getting camera on playground but distance from school is a challenge. Bus evacuation training for classrooms will take place. Healthy School Plan is being developed by fifth grade teacher Peter Haslam -- mindfulness and fun run will be incorporated. Looking at report card to try to make it clearer what the measures mean.

## 6. Agenda

- a. Approve October minutes (vote) -- Betsy Kleba approved the minutes, Elissa Wiscomb seconds. Unanimously approved.

- b. School Items

- i. Bryant Middle School: Guest Lisa Warner (Bryant School Counselor) -- Tracie Sexton explains goal has been to improve communication between Bryant and Wasatch and inform people how new leadership has positively impacted school. Efforts continue to

improve the school. Public opinion has not changed as quickly as things have changed at Bryant. Tracie Sexton points out it takes significant positive discussion to change opinions.

Lisa Warner came to school from Oregon. She previously did middle school counseling and then was at an international private school where she had 200 kids and a very different environment. A big change at Bryant is that now there's two counselors instead of one. Coming in, she was curious why the community surrounding Bryant is not attending the school. If there are truly things not being provided, then they need to be. There are six feeder schools that feed into Bryant. Is it just perception that needs to be changed? Girls on the Run is now at Bryant -- something she, as a triathlete, is very enthusiastic about.

Candler points out that parents have to apply for middle schools in December and Bryant often holds open house after the fact. Problem can be families applying to Salt Lake Arts Academy in fourth grade. The creation of that school took a large number of kids out of stream to Bryant. Candler points out that several charters have a similar impact on elementary schools. Having the Wasatch musical there impacted some kids' decisions last year. "Screenagers" will be viewed there -- exposing the kids to the school can make an impact. Warner offers to be communication link between the schools. Candler talks about having a shadow day for fifth grade students to show them school.

One parent talks about parents not wanting their kids to do arts at Bryant or academic concerns about school. And behavioral concerns about students. Betsy Kleba saw data on student performance showing improvement that she thinks needs to be promoted, including that ELP students at Bryant are performing at same level as other ELP programs in the district.

Candler points out that school grades are based on single tests and the amazing, hard working teachers at what are perceived as failing schools. At Wasatch, language issues for non-native speakers, for example, are much less of a challenge.

Katherine Kennedy talks about appealing to parents and kids. Bryant needs to market itself differently. She praised Larry Madden, new principal. She suggests reaching out to fourth grade parents. Perhaps having an informational meeting after winter break.

Heather Armstrong talked about difficulty her child has had at Clayton Middle School and how Warner's expertise in bullying could be part of Bryant's marketing.

Parent discussion about how changing the school's reputation comes down to parents making the choice to attend and speaking positively about school.

#### ii. Parent Engagement Breakfast: November 9

Small attendance but serious discussion. Some families are facing challenges such as recovery from addiction or eviction -- five Wasatch families got evicted last month. Principal Candler and Tracie Sexton discussed wanting to find more support community-wide for the families. Accessing mental health services for students whose families are not on Medicaid is extremely challenging. A full-time counselor (instead of half-time as it is currently) or more family support services would be useful. Wasatch has almost 30 percent of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. Next breakfast will take place Thursday, Dec. 7.

#### iii. Statewide Fall School Community Council Training: November 9

Tracie Sexton attended the training at Mt. Jordan Middle School in Sandy. Analysis is ongoing regarding per pupil SCC funding difference between rural and urban districts.

iv. District School Community Council Chair Meeting: November 14  
Focus was on presentation about SAFE Neighborhoods. Parents interested in emergency preparedness may be organized.

v. SAFE Neighborhoods Program- CERT Training/96 Hour Kits :  
Tracie to contact Jenn Hein for email list of parents interested in emergency preparedness. Desiree Buck also to be involved in developing a “task force”

vi. Review upcoming events -- Town meetings Nov. 16; report cards go home Nov. 20; school restarts Nov. 27 after Thanksgiving break; Nov. 30 kindergarten tour 6:30 p.m.; PTA Meeting Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>; Winter Music Concert Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>; SCC Meeting Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>

c. District Items

i. Review board approved fees and fee schedule for 2018-19 revisions (N/A)

5. Principal report – Deborah Candler - Used LAND Trust money - almost \$900 - to buy new headphones for computer lab. Used some funds for additional improvements in computer lab. Six-hour writing professional development took place for full staff -- funded by PTA. She may do a follow up because of event’s success. Had LEXIA professional development. Science professional development focusing on writing in science journals also took place. And bought writing curriculum for kindergarten.

i. Review school budget : We have approximately \$44,000 in 2017-18 LAND Trust Money. We have currently spent approximately \$6,000. The majority of this money is paying for salaries for the remainder of the school year.

ii. Staffing : Our new music teacher started today, November 16th. There were several barriers in getting her hired. There was an issue at the district where Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) were not being completed correctly. We are not going to be able to hire art specialists the way we have done in the past as independent contractors. There are strict parameters that will need to be fulfilled. Because of this, future art specialists will need to be licensed teachers. As a result of this, salaries will increase; therefore it may cost the PTA more money to pay these specialists. Teachers overwhelmingly in support of receiving Active Shooter training: provided by a SWAT Team member in the police dept.

iii. Opportunity for Community to ask questions or bring forth concerns

6. Review Action Items

i. Attend Optional SCC Learning Community Meeting: November 28, 2017, 3:30 PM, Rm. 116

ii. Bryant SCC Meetings: November 17<sup>th</sup> 7-8 AM, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Franklin Elementary 7-8 AM

**Next meeting: December 15th at 3:15 PM Wasatch  
Library**

- SCC Projects – ongoing (SAFE Neighborhoods Program, Parent Engagement Breakfasts, Bryant Middle School)

