

School Community Council 3/4/20

Nic calls the meeting to order at 6:05

Should the opening at Foothills Park be closed permanently to students and the public? There's a safety concern with the portables as well as with students trying to escape.

Survey was sent to teachers and staff. 45% want to close it permanently, 32% said no and 22% said other. Video shows 150-175 students using the back gate each day. Use of the park is not in the safe walking plan. George observed the use of stairs 3 times before coming to this meeting and all 3 times noticed kids falling on the stairs. Julie was also concerned because kids are riding their bikes down the stairs. Other comments from staff indicated that safety should be the priority over convenience.

It has already been determined that the opening cannot stay as is because the city will not fix the stairs and it's not on the safe walking plan. The district wants it closed. Our options are to close it off completely or put a gate. One commenter mentioned that it might be safer to have another exit in case of a lock down threat. One issue with a gate is who would open/close it each day, but putting a gate leaves a possibility open to reconsider the issue later.

Kristin mentioned that parents who are upset by the closure could be asked to contact Riverton City to help push them towards finding a solution that would put the park in compliance with the safe walking plan so we can reconsider the opening.

Nic proposed that we have a gate that remains closed and locked unless there is an emergency. Once Riverton has addressed the safety issue we can revisit. Julie thinks we should have a full fence to not entice kids to try to break locks, etc.

We should give notice to parents/kids letting them know that the opening will be closing so that they can find other options. Maybe we can put a sign out for a week or two as well as an email to parents. Brecka suggested we mention to parents that they can still drop off by the park and have the kids use the sidewalk to walk down to the school. It will take a little bit longer but will be safer.

Kristin Sokol moves to put in a gate that will be permanently locked with a sturdy lock until such time that the city fixes the problems and the park becomes part of a safe walking plan. At this point we can address the issue again. Brecka seconds the motion. Motion is approved unanimously. 10 total votes. All in favor.

Kim moves to adjourn at 6:39. Nic seconds. Meeting adjourned