School Community Council Meeting Minutes-Nov. 2, 2017

Approved 2/1/18

Attendance: Amy Peterson, Marcy Adams, Michelle Wade, Brecka Scott, Chad Wiet, Shauna Worthington, Cherie Wilson, Ryan Schut, Cindi Schut, Troy Thomson, Julie Thomson, Vanda Romney and Kristin Sokol

Minutes from former meeting were read. Chad moved to approve them. Amy seconded. All approved.

Shauna talked about air quality issues and policies. Cherie said alternative activities are given to children with breathing problem on days when air quality is borderline and most kids can go out.

Jordan District Policy is for students to stay in on days when temperatures reach 21 degrees with wind chill consideration. Cherie said on days when the students are given a choice to go out or not, most go outside. When an inside day is required, there are issues about what to do with kids during lunch recess when teachers are not required to stay with them. The gym isn’t big enough to hold three or four grade levels. Michelle Wade, a former recess aide, said when even two grades are together the children get out of control. It becomes, “pure chaotic.” It’s easier to keep them monitored in classrooms, although students in portables can’t be monitored. Amy said many teachers are willing to stay with kids during lunch. Cherie proposed having the children rotate after 10 minutes in the cafeteria, to the gym for about 10 minutes, and then to the classroom. This would give them more movement time. Many liked this proposal and would like to see it further investigated. This doesn’t remedy the problem with students in portables however. Julie suggested using parent volunteers, particularly room moms.

Cherie gave a final report of last year’s land trust goals, which were successful in improving math and language arts performance. Foothills scores are above the district and state average. Professional development, PLC, and classroom aides that give teachers one on one time with students have all contributed to this success. Cherie said land trust money is one of the few that can be used for classroom aides. Teachers have liked the one on one time.

The School Community Council is allowed to hold one fund raiser each year. Julie said the PTA did not reach their fundraiser goal with the “no fuss” fundraiser. The council discussed different kinds of fundraisers and how they did not want to use a company like APEX, which ran the PTA fundraiser a few years ago. Cherie said Southland Elementary has had great success with their fundraiser run. Julie moved that we do a fundraiser that is both active and can generate some community spirit. Marcy seconded. Chad said he will check with a cousin who works for a color run company for donations. Cherie suggested everyone start looking into ideas for a spring fundraiser.

Kristin Sokol suggested the school look into having more active breaks for the students each day. She said the CDC guidelines suggest a 5-7 minute break every 2 hours, and would like to
know what percentage of students get this. Marcy said her students go out for a brain break at 10:20 each day to run or play and she has found it very effective. Amy said she gives her classes many kinds of active brain breaks. Michelle Wade said she sees it happening in classes all around the school each day. Cherie said the 3rd grade does laps and the 5th grade has regular breaks. Some teachers combine groups. Kristin said some of her children haven’t been getting that opportunity. She motioned for more information to be sent to teachers about CDC guidelines and some further professional development be done for teachers to teach ways to implement active breaks.

Shauna discussed the SNAP guidelines for safe travel to and from school for students. She showed maps of walking routes and where crossing guards are stationed. Some motorists and families have expressed concern about children crossing near Monarch Meadows form the town homes on a cross walk that has high traffic and no crossing guard. Cindi suggested we request a crossing guard for that area. Shauna would like to drive around and look into the cross walks further south where students cross from above Rose Crest Road, to see if they are safely used. Kristin Motioned for Shauna to move forward and present the information for Brecka to sign off. Then it will be presented to the district.

School growth and overcrowding were discusses briefly. Amy said two new elementaries are on schedule to open in 2019. Foothills may go to a traditional schedule at this time.

The next meeting of the School Community Council is scheduled for 6pm on Februrary 1st at Foothills.