

## Washington Elementary Community Council Minutes 3/18/2016

In attendance: Kelly Mitchell, Amanda Whitney, Sarah Miller, Carrie Neilson, Natasha Isom, Pam Stephenson

- 2:23 Minutes from last meeting, held March 4<sup>th</sup>, read and approved.
- 2:23 The council discussed what the focus should be. Mrs. Stephenson presented a 4<sup>th</sup> grade science book that is presented by the state office. The book costs \$3 per student and is meant to be used as a consumable.
- 2:29 The council talked about the listening centers that could be purchased and the option to purchase science related, informational texts.
- 2:32 The council read the email from the Paula Plant about the bills that passed in the legislature. Part of the email stated that Districts and LEA's would receive additional funding for technology. The council wondered about the amount our school would receive.
- 2:36 Natasha shared information about a grant that she has applied for. The grant focuses on technology. Natasha wrote the grant to cover 3 of the younger Lego League teams and 5 of the older Lego League teams. The grant would also pay the volunteers and hourly. The grant would also fund an all-girls team. Natasha should hear back today and will know if she received the grant.
- 2:40 Mr. Mitchell explained how the approval process and form signing process is done, to complete the plan.
- 2:42 Amanda made a motion to focus on science and reading. Everyone agreed.
- 2:43 Pam read the portion of the email to the council that talked about the funding for technology. Mr. Mitchell told the council that LEA means the school district, so if they received the funding, they would make it available to the schools.
- 2:44 Amanda asked the council if they had a specific idea of how to support the goals to increase student achievement in reading and science. Mr. Mitchell listed what the funding had been used for in the past to achieve those goals:

Science and Reading Focus: Aides, ESL, Art, Listening Centers, Text Books for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, manipulatives, professional development, take home readers, after school programs

The council also discussed the possibility of having a science specialist. This would entail having a teacher that taught science to all of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for half a day. Pam asked if there were any grants that we could get to cover a science teacher. Mr. Mitchell explained that the philosophy of STEM schools is to incorporate science,

technology, and math into reading, math, writing, etc. Carrie talked about a school that uses a drafting program to incorporate real-world experiences in the classroom. Natasha stated that there is a possibility that she could adjust the grant to incorporate more technology for the school.

- 2:57 Amanda suggested that we keep the funding portion that is allocated to provided extra hours for the ESL aide.
- 3:00 The council looked at each item individually. Natasha suggested making up a list of grant ideas, dates, etc. and giving them to the teachers to encourage them to apply for classroom grants for extra supplies. She agreed to look into the resources available. Mr. Mitchell asked Natasha if she would be willing to present the ideas to the teachers.
- 3:07 The following amounts were allotted for each area:  
Science Manipulatives and Software Resources: \$3,000  
2, 15 hour Aides, Extra 10 hours for ESL: \$12,000  
Professional Development:  
Art: \$10,000  
Listening Centers: \$1,200.00  
Take Home Library: \$1,000  
Science Text Books for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades: \$500  
After School Programs: Any Extra Funds.  
(Lego League \$2000, up to 3 teams. \$400 for each team for registration.)
- 3:30 Natasha asked about planning for a science teacher. Mr. Mitchell explained that the science teacher plan would work if we took the other plan away. The council talked about the fact that each teacher would take their kids to science and stay to support the teacher. Carrie brought up the idea to have the PTA pay for the Listening Centers and Take Home Library books.
- 3:40 Natasha said that she would want a science teacher. Pam agreed. Carrie made a motion that we support getting a teacher. Natasha, and Pam seconded the motion.
- 3:45 The focus is now science. Mr. Mitchell explained the plan for him to write up the report, submit it, and then all members will receive an email about the proposal.
- 3:46 The committee will most likely not need to meet again until in the fall. If they need to, a meeting will be called.
- 3:49 Meeting Adjourned