**Heartland Elementary**

**School Community Council Meeting**

**March 3, 2021**

**Attendees:** Buddy Alger (Principal,) Jessica Vidal (Vice Principal,) Andrea Robinson (Chair,) Janiece Atwood (Secretary-prepares minutes,) Steph Berg, Michelle Whitchurch, Jen Atwood (area board member,) Marlane Forsyth (faculty,) Glenna Roundy (faculty,) Whitney Fenech

Kate Walker and Rebecca Simons excused.

**Meeting Start Time:** 5:03 p.m.

**Welcome-Andrea:** We're so happy to have Jen Atwood here with us. She's the board member that represents our area, voting District 7, since 2015. She does so much for our school and our district.

**Approve Last Meeting Minutes-Janiece:** Passed around a copy to be read and initialed by all in attendance. Once approved, Buddy will post on our website.

**Covid-19 Update-Buddy:** Our numbers look really good, as usual. We have zero quarantined currently. At times, we've gotten as high as 10, but it always goes back down quickly. We're all getting sick of masks, but that's normal and expected; overall, it's going really good.

**Fridays-Buddy:** The district sent out a survey about Fridays for next year. We hope everyone took the time to share their opinion, concerns, etc. Jen-the district needs to come to a decision sooner rather than later, this will be administration-driven committee, rather than board-driven committee (their usual way to make decisions.) Superintendant will put a cabinet member in charge; Jen will attend as a board member. Some parents will be chosen to attend, but she has no say on who or how the invitations go. Decision will be based on the survey results, but it'll probably require 3-4 meetings before a conclusion is made. Having Fridays off was never related to Covid. Not exactly why they happened; heard rumors of it just being for additional janitorial cleaning, but it's not.

At Heartland, currently teachers are running more 4-6 week groups to work on specific projects with small groups. They're offering it to more kids and different kids than before. Kids seem to really like it. We're working with the local day care centers to bus the kids, communicating with parents about being able to get kids to the school. There is no crossing guard for the 1st session, but they're there for lunch and 2nd session. Even if we tried to fund an extra guard ourselves, the district doesn't have the man power to provide. Parents' thoughts-maybe the kids need to do more on Fridays to be an effective way of learning. For some, not enough is assigned from their teachers so it's a wasted day, insufficient; depends on the grade and the teacher. There should be learning opportunity as well as enrichment opportunity for all. Parents of elementary kids seem to like Fridays this way, but worry about the long-term education ramifications. Teachers' thoughts-they enjoy Fridays the current way; more continuity, more quality time both teaching and prepping; they love their Fridays and they're not wasted or easy. They feel they're better teachers, more effective Mon-Thur because all PLC's, all planning, all meetings, all small groups are done on Fridays. It's hard when they try to focus on the kids who need extra help by inviting them on Fridays, but parents are unable or unwilling to get them to school and say they prefer homework... however, when homework is sent home, those kids are still not completing the work and their grades continue to struggle= Catch 22!

There will be no Heartland online option next year. The district has a new online school, (elementary, middle school and highschool levels,) "Rocky Point," and it will not be connected to any current schools. It'll have their own teachers, resources services, aid services. It's public, so anyone can get in who chooses, don't have to be accepted like a charter, but would have to un-enroll from their current school and enroll with Rocky Point. Possible to change schools at the end of each quarter, but more of a process, not the intention. They're not discouraging this back-and-forth, yet not facilitating it throughout the year either (no reminders to change at the end of the quarter, etc.) Buddy is the principal mentor to the principal of Rocky Point so he gets info in an on-going basis about any of our Heartland kids choosing the online option, versus the Heartland option. Info will go to all families (both online and in-person) soon. Currently making phone calls and a skylert will go out soon. Trying to estimate staffing numbers for next year.

**Feedback on Digital Citizenship Month-Jessica:** Teachers reported it was a success; engaging and age-appropriate. They agree with SCC that the beginning of the year (Sept./Oct.) would be better than mid-year for this training. There was low parent engagement even though schedule went home to them; some kids, generally older ones, don't get papers out of their back packs, but there was a little feedback from parents online. It had great lessons, a great format. Seemed to go smooth. Good info for us parents who may not have known about the apps it mentioned. Michelle-maybe we could add a parent night next year for those who want to come to the school for a more hands-on help or more info, Q&A. Overall, very good program!

**Report on Safe Walking Route Meeting:** All good news, all celebrations! He heard no "NO's," all "YES's"! 1st area: they're currently designing the layout across the road and anticipate starting construction in 6 months on the sky bridge project. We've been waiting on this for many, many years and they're finally doing it because they want the entrance to our city to look nice and welcoming. The sky bridge design is set, prepped, construction to start in 6 months. Bill Baranowski gave Buddy his word. For years, it's been a battle of whose issue it was/is... UDOT or City of West Jordan; now doing it in partnership. They will re-paint or re-do all bike lanes. 2nd area: may move the crosswalk on Bora Bora, but wherever it lands, goal is to have flashers. This area may take 1-2 years , but it's approved! 3rd area: behind school, there will be increased kid traffic due to construction on 70th and 1300 W-we may get 2 crossing guards there during the construction time. Not a full-guarantee on this part yet, but it will be evaluated once the construction starts and if there is a need, we will be provided an extra guard. The 1300 W. West Jordan, full job, will be 2-year duration, but while they're on our area, (1300 W. between 70th and 78th So.) they promise to have extra safety measures in place (2 guards, flashers, etc.)

**Parent Teacher Conferences Review and Plan:** Had a meeting with teachers; they will meet with parents for 3 nights- Tue. 3-5p.m, Wed. 3-6p.m. and Thur.3-6p.m. This will provide lots of opportunity for all. All conferences will have Zoom links posted and a waiting room. All teachers will be in-building (not home,) available the entire time, all 3 nights. In the Fall, between Zoom and phone calls, our PTC numbers were consistent with past PTC. Some parents preferred phone calls to computers.

He has a new folder system to help teachers be really clear with students about what is expected at each level. Example: In KG, "I will be able to read *some* words before going in to 1st grade." It will start at Spring PTC, but will be better understood next year; we need a good, strong Back-To-School Night and in-person PTC in the Fall to get everyone on the same page to make these connections. Parents will need to see the expectations to help the kids stay at level throughout the year. Teachers helped come up with these grade-level, rigorous, comprehensive standards so they're very specific; concepts and goals are very clear. It's less about a grade, but more of a good understanding of what is expected and "promised." Our ability to intervene and meet the child's needs will be much greater with this system than by just looking at Diebels because the teachers will have their data in the trackers. Kids will enjoy the "ownership" of their education by helping to track their own data. It will be a private folder, individualized; not public to the other students; however, achievements will be celebrated and recognized so that the learning process is valued.

**Land Trust Plan and Data Review:** "Data-Rich and Info-Poor" is sometimes what we're seeing. We're hoping this folder system (refer to above info) is helping that problem. We received $52,618.00 which is down about $6,000.00 from last year's allocations. We hired a new full-time art teacher. She connects to the concepts of art and culture, works with teachers well. We hired assistants and purchased technology with that money as well. Buddy will bring a proposal to us about how we use aids, etc. He'll write the plan and we'll get an email to approve it. Email or call him if you have any questions or concerns.

**Data Review:** (Showed us a graph of beginning of year.) There's always a mid-year slump, but really the expectations just change. There are different requirements or expectations at different times of the year, so it's not accurate to compare or to look at a chart. Almost every kid is making growth towards the goal. Levels: red, yellow, green, blue. He credits the progress to both the "95% program" and the 'teacher collaborations.' Having this data and being able to see it, understand it and push forward. He's seeing a lack of a mid-year slump. He wants to use Land Trust money to do the same again-these 2 areas result in increased/maintaining assistants & collaborations.

I. Full-time BTS Specialist (Visual Art)

II. Instructional Coach (K-2 reading)

III. Music Teacher

IV. Summer Curriculum Planning Days

V. Any additional districtuion would be used to provide professional development for teachers and cost of substitutes

**Summer School Interest and Brainstorm:** There will be a summer school reading program. 3 hours in the mornings, running until lunch time. Free lunch program all summer. This will help make up for the loss of reading skills due to Covid. Available to all students, but they'll target specific kids. Also include some art, music and STEM. Library and computer lab open for visiting and learning. A calendar of scheduled events will be provided to parents. 6 weeks (hopefully 3 weeks in June, 3 in July.) Must stay for entire 3 hours (not 1 or 2, just for a certain activity,) but otherwise no long-term committment- done on a day-to-day basis. Team up with WJ Police Department. They'll come at lunch time to use their PE grant; bring their own PE equipment, run games outside, different activities, give prizes, get kids excited and have fun. Goal is to close gaps created by the pandemic before the next school year starts. Funding is basically approved and available. This is just a preview; he still has more details to work out, but essentially it's a great reading program with extra fun things to draw kids in.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:40 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.**