MINUTES COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 30, 2017

In attendance: John Hughes; principal, Gayla Luke; school secretary, Korinda Stilson; Community Council President, Council Members: Natalie Olsen, Shelley Jones and Tracey Johnson; School Board Member

The council was welcomed by Korinda Stilson who then turned the time over to Mr. Hughes for discussion of the following items:

1) Digital Citizenship Plan Discussion and Proposals: Mr. Hughes informed us that the Emery School District Technical Committee is in the process of updating the policies for technology such as phones, computer internet access etc.

The council discussed the fact that Cottonwood already has in place excellent procedures in our computer lab for internet safety. Our students are taught from kindergarten through 6th grade to use only school filtered sites when doing research. The district maintains very up to date filtering technology which blocks any harmful content. Our students are allowed only certain times to search such sites and they have been taught research skills and which search engines they can use. Then they are strictly monitored by the teachers and computer lab aides as they search.

It was recognized that with these policies and procedures already in place we can then move forward and add to our Digital Citizenship Plan.

The council talked about the policies for devices brought from home such as phones, IPODS, tablets etc. As students now use their personal devices in class and at home to complete projects and other assignments the district feels a need for updating school policies.

The need for finding an appropriate program for our student’s internet safety needs and age group was also addressed. It was brought to our attention that there may already be available software or something on the internet. This was tabled until more research can be done and community input can be added.

The next part of the Digital Citizenship Plan discussed was how and when internet safety could be taught to the students. The possibility of using computer lab time with the aide’s help may be one choice. One possible option talked about was that the computer aides could introduce one concept the first week of each month, that concept would then be reinforced a couple more time during that month. Another option might be for Nathan Wilson who is an employee of the Service Center in Price to teach the internet safety classes to our students as he has done in other schools.

The council decided that the community needs to be part of this process and we should find out what they would like to see taught on this issue. The council will seek the opinions of the community and bring it back to bring to the table in a future meeting.

2) Review of Achievement Data from Software Programs: Data collected from software program reports were looked over. Starting and ending points for each student was shown on the report. As a school a large percentage of our lexile scores proved a substantial increase.

Proposed purchasing of computer programs from the School Lands Trust Plan was shown. Several programs that were paid for last year will not be renewed. This will leave about $1300 to be spent elsewhere. It was discussed to use this capital toward increasing and replacing IPADS. Our IPADS are quickly becoming unusable due to age. Many will no longer run new program. Possible Chrome Books vs. Apple products will be considered.

Mr. Hughes shared that teachers have indicated they would like the National Geographic student magazines to be purchased with Lands Trust money again next year. They would also like to continue purchasing the writing journals. They feel this not only gives the students writing practice, it but also provides parents with a journal of their child’s year and gives a visual image of their writing growth.

3) Lands Trust Plan 2017-18 Proposal: The council was provided with a copy of the draft for next year’s Lands Trust Plan. They will look over the draft, study it and be prepared to discuss any concerns before approving the plan at the next meeting on Monday April 10th .

Mr. Hughes told the council of a suggestion from Jasa Norton who is a member of the council and a teacher here at our school. She was not able to be in attendance this afternoon but had talked to Mr. Hughes about the possibility to find funding from lands trust money to be used toward professional development for our teachers. She brought up the fact that it would be very beneficial for our teachers to have the opportunity to stay current and up to date with the newest and most effective teaching concepts.

The council thought this would be money well spent as an investment for our student’s futures. Possible ways to accomplish this would be conferences, professionals brought to our school, webinars etc. This idea will be taken to all of teachers for their input.

Meeting was adjourned until the next meeting which will be held April 10th, 2017.