

Elk Meadows Elementary
School Community Council
November 14, 20204
Minutes

In attendance: Tiffany Smith, Molly Morgan, Marilyn Richards, Paige Wightman, Hannah Hartzell, Shauna Hill, Caroline Morley, Emily Mallory, Melissa Darby, Julie McEntire, Laura Jensen, Lisa Bird

1. Social And Emotional Learning: Paige Wightman and Hannah Hartzell

Paige Wightman from the district Wellness Department came to educate us about SEL programs. She said the district vets all of the programs in use in the district based on 5 pillars: self awareness, self management, responsible decision making, relationship skills and social awareness. She emphasized that SEL builds skills and boosts academic achievement. SEL is NOT therapy and does not plant ideas. The district removes lessons about suicide and sexuality from all district approved elementary curriculums at the tier 1 level. SEL education in the Jordan District is not political or ideological but teaches students to stand up for themselves and their beliefs no matter what they might be. SEL education improves school atmospheres and develops a sense of belonging. It also helps staff in relationships and with classroom management.

Hannah Hartzell, our school counselor, then shared with us that it is important for everyone at the school (staff and students) to have a common language to discuss and address social and emotional well being. Having a common curriculum keeps everyone on the same page and streamlines tier 1, 2 and 3 interventions. Kiersten Cole's curriculum has been great for our school for the past several years but since she has moved on to a new school, the connection to students has been lost.

Mrs. Smith has been reviewing curriculums and one stood out with features that she was looking for. It is called "Character Strong: Purposeful People" and its main ideas are to be kind, be strong, be well. Ms. Cole's old program was built on 9 values based on a teacher survey. This new program also has monthly values that will work to continue the student and staff member of the month awards. There are a variety of grade level specific lessons that come with book recommendations, thinking points for the students and family focus messages that can be sent home. There are also more specific interventions that can be used in the counseling or principal's office for individual behaviors that need to be addressed.

The cost of the program is estimated to be \$3,500 which is quite competitive. We have a \$1,000 suicide prevention budget that can be used for SEL curriculum. Paige Wightman mentioned that the district is also applying for grants that would hopefully help to cover some of the costs. We discussed building a library of the book recommendations so that teachers don't have to track them down. We could use district grant money, left over PTA library money, left over funds from our yearbook sales and an amazon wishlist to get all of the needed books. Miss Hartzell will be

doing the heavy lifting to prepare the curriculum for the beginning of the next school year to make it easier for teachers to implement. Parents offered to volunteer to help her get it set up.

2. Land Trust:

Mrs. Smith plans to continue using the Land Trust money as we have in years past. The student population is down which means less funding from the Land Trust and less funding from Beverly Taylor Sorenson program. The land trust money will be used to pay the school's portion of Spencer Duncan's salary that is not covered by the Beverly Taylor Sorenson program. The remainder of the money will be spent on reading aides and kindergarten assistants. The final plan will be discussed and voted on at upcoming meetings.

3. Update on Wired Well:

Cole is still not done with the online parent resources. We will hold off on having the assembly until he has everything ready to go.

4. Traffic Study: Emily Mallory and Jeremy:

Emily Mallory has been working with the city to see if we can have a school zone speed limit enforced on 3600 West. The city conducted a traffic study and determined that we do not qualify for additional lights and the school zone speed limit. However the city did agree to repaint the crosswalk where 3600 West meets with 9800 South and to provide more police presence to enforce the speed limit.

We also discussed our new Resource Officer, Officer Hill. He has been working with teachers on safety plans and is starting to teach the D.A.R.E. program to 5th Graders.

5. Memory Book Update:

The memory book presale and cover contest are both ending tomorrow, 11/15. We have already sold 175 yearbooks. We will be including our new preschool kids in the memory book this year and we are also working on getting photo releases for them and all of the other students who need them. We discussed a parent request to include their child who was sick and out of town for both picture days. We decided to accommodate the special request but opted not to try to collect photos from everyone who is not pictured. Caroline offered to post a reminder to the PTA Instagram and multiple notices have been posted on Parent Square.

Next Meetings: January 16, and March 20 at 9:15am