

Elk Meadows Elementary
School Community Council
Minutes
October 14, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

In attendance: Tiffany Smith, Susan Davis, Shauna Hill, Marilyn Richards, Shannon Bird, Kimberly Wimmer, Marni Reid, Stephanie Johnson, and Caroline Morley.

The meeting began by discussing our inside/outside recess rules. Principal Smith presented to the group the rules from other schools in our area and district. Stephanie motioned to keep our rule at 20 degrees with wind chill, and air quality. Shauna Hill second the motion. We talked about what inside days look like right now, and how they are different this year because of covid regulations. Teachers much be in their room with the children. The recess aids could help watch the classrooms as well. First grade has 5 classrooms so maybe they would take turns watching their class since there are only 4 aids.

Next the parking lot problems were brought up. We have young children crossing in the middle of the road, and in front of other cars on the east side of the school to get to their parents' car. The cars turning left into the pickup lanes are blocking the traffic flow as well on the east side. Jeremy Neilson from South Jordan City would be at the school that day watching our pick up process. Stephanie presented a plan to the group that would eliminate all parking on the street on the very east side of the school, allow for a turning lane into the pick up area, and keep the flow of traffic moving. The group agreed that this would be a good plan and would need to be approved by the city.

We also discussed the south parking lot of the school. Some parents are parking in the handicapped spot to let their kids out, or pulling into the parking area to drop kids off and then the kids run in front of the buses. If parents want, they can park in a parking stall and walk their child to the front of the school. We suggested making signs that say Park and Walk and/or sending an email to parents about proper procedures.

Principal Smith passed out a yearbook from another elementary school as an idea for our council to use for a fundraiser. We have always used LifeTouch for our photography, but Mrs. Smith would like to change to using Bell Photography next year. This company puts the yearbooks together and all we have to do is send in the photos. We talked about calling it something else like a memory book instead of a yearbook. Marilyn Richards wanted us to be aware of them becoming like high school yearbooks and the possibility of the book getting into the hands of a predator. We decided we would only allow the sell of the books to guardians of kids in the school and they could only purchase the same amount of books as they have kids in the school. We will revisit the idea at our last meeting in May to discuss for next year.

The committee was given this years Code of Conduct. Mrs Smith updated the Falcon 5 Rules and the mission vision to align with her values for the school. They hadn't been changed since she became principal.

We quickly chatted about how we all feel about the homeschool Fridays. The teachers have really been liking being able to work with smaller groups and feel like they are really reaching the children in ways they haven't been able to before. The parents all had different opinions. Some love the small groups and have liked the work being sent home. Some parents are overwhelmed with trying to help all their kids at home on Fridays and feel like only going to school once a month for the small group doesn't seem to make a big difference. Teachers and Parents listening to each others pros and cons was very informative for both parties.

Lastly, we discussed the idea of becoming a No Homework School. Principal Smith shared with us research that shows there is no increase of learning for grades k-5 when given homework. She asked the committee to ask other parents their feelings on the topic. The teachers are concerned the parents will still want homework and wanted to make sure the community is on board with the discussion. We will continue the discussion next month after talking to our neighbors.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15