

**Draper Park Middle School Community Council**  
**Minutes**  
**January 19, 2017**  
Conference Room, 3 p.m.

**Attendance:** Mary Anderson (Principal), Melinda Colton (Chair), Kelli Davey, Daniela Dulger, Allyson Dunbar, Alisa Frost, Tiffany Grimes, Heidi Grimshaw, Martine Hales, Jen Middleton, Krista Pippin, Amy Valdez, Heather White (Vice Chair) – via FaceTime, Dave Barrett, Nate Edvalson, Jodi Roberts

**Absent:** Kathy Bitner

**Guests:** Wendy Smith, Chad Smith, Katie Smith, Paul Madsen, Mike Neyman, Monett Rupp, David Linford, Marianne Barrows, Jon Geertsen, Holly Neibaur

**1. Welcome:** at 3:02 p.m.

Heather White is not feeling well and joined us from home via FaceTime.

PowerPoint presentation available at: <http://draperpark.canyonsdistrict.org/scc.html>).

**2. DPMS Schedule**

Mary Anderson and Mike Sirois have talked to the State School Board last week. They were receptive to not mandate electives but make opting out available. School District will sign a waiver.

Monday the middle school principals will meet.

Digital literacy will not be taught next year. College and Career Awareness (CCA) is supposed to start next year, but students can opt out.

The School District Meeting this week went very long, until after midnight. The board accepted DPMS's petition to stay on the 6-period schedule for next year. By this summer, a taskforce will be assembled with parents and educators to find a long-term solution.

Tiffany Grimes will periodically check the State Board Website to report the progress to us. We will know by the time of registration.

Melinda received many thank-you e-mails from parents. Some of them volunteered to be on the taskforce. Mary Anderson will forward recommendations to Mike Sirois who will lead the taskforce.

**3. Responsibilities and Role of SCC**

According to SCC handbook and district website, the SCC's primary responsibility is to improve student academic performance. Another responsibility is to advise the principal. The school board made it sound like our SCC was making the decisions. We only advise the principal. Susan Edwards from the district will give further clarification on our role.

**4. Conduct**

It was brought to our attention that some of the SCC member had not shown the proper respect during the parent meeting last week, by talking to each other during public comments. We need to all make an effort to show appropriate behavior.

## **5. Communication with Parents**

We can get the agendas and minutes from school board meeting from their website. Links will be put into the next school newsletter by Melinda. We should also add updates from the school board, changes of policies, etc.

We have about 540 Facebook “Likes”. Dave Barrett doesn’t want to use this forum to share information that invites confrontation. He would like to keep the focus student oriented and very positive. We can put meeting date, time and place on there. It was suggested to add the school calendar to our Facebook page, with the disclaimer that sometimes events get scheduled or changed on short-notice. School needs to ensure that parent permission to place students’ pictures on Facebook has been given. Mary will forward the names of the approx. ten students who don’t want to be in pictures to all teachers.

After talking with several parents, Mary Anderson offered to visit elementary school SCC meetings to talk about registration and other concerns.

We could send an email with the link to SCC minutes. That would make access easier. SCC meetings will be advertised on the Marquee from now on. It will go up Monday before each meeting.

It was proposed to make the agenda more detailed.

Allyson Dunbar offered to contact all elementary school SCCs and CCHS SCC, get three representatives of each school (1 SCC, 1 foreign language, 1 English) to talk about the art/elective programs. We will call it the Feeder Sub-Committee. They will share monthly emails and be able to put discussion items on our SCC agenda.

## **6. Communicating with Elementary and High School SCCs**

Elementary SCCs and CCHS SCC could send us their minutes so we could read them.

## **7. Teaming Research**

We want to share more information about teaming.

Some 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams are not communicating the way they are supposed to (newsletters, grades online, etc.). If parents have issues with teachers, they should contact principal. Mary considers it her responsibility to ensure all teachers communicate with parents. She will also help with scheduling conflicts.

Amy Valdez will communicate with teachers.

A short note why we team could be put in the team newsletter: “Did you know ... “. All team newsletters could be placed in a drop box for parents to access.

Some students see the downside of teaming as being separated from their friends. Some parents believe there are “good” and “bad” teams. If one teacher doesn’t connect with a student, the student doesn’t have the option of only changing one class, the team would need be changed.

A new teacher needs about three years to fully acclimate to the school. We have great teachers at DPMS.

DLI students have been with the same “team” of 60 students for years.

Jodi Roberts works with team teachers and counselors every week. She wouldn’t be able to focus on the students this way, if it weren’t for teams. Teachers are passionate and kind. It helps teachers if they have a smaller group to focus on.

Parent comment: She was never approached by teachers about her son’s problems at school. She had to keep asking the teachers for their help. She didn’t see the teacher’s passion and kindness. – Mary Anderson would like to be contacted in a case like this, so she can help out.

Side note: Honor Rolls were sent out this week for GPAs 3.5 and above.

## **8. Teacher of the Year**

Information not yet available. An e-mail will be sent to all parents, teachers, students to vote for teachers. Nominations will be collected and Mary with the help of PTSA will narrow it down to the top three contenders. Then a team of one SCC member (Daniela volunteered), one PTSA member and Mary Anderson will make the final decision.

## **9. Student Aides**

This school has too many aides. Students who don't like the options for electives choose to be aides. Teachers shouldn't have more than two aides per day (possible exception for some CTE teachers). If there are too many aides, there will not be enough to do for them all. Registration cards are online. When students sign up for aide, they will put their names on a Google sheet, from which teachers can "grab" the aide they want. "Stealing" not allowed.

## **2.c. Parent Discussion**

"Taskforce" seems the wrong term for the group to be formed, "Advisory Board" would be a better word, as taskforce implies that there is an end to it when the task is done.

The DI program has changed over the years.

David Linford: was not surprised to hear about parents' dislike for teams.

A survey should be send out. Mary Anderson would do it if she could assure that each parent only answers once, and only DPMS parents would be able to. Dan Jones did a survey for the district six years ago.

Teaming has minor downsides: students can't pick or change just one teacher, they have to pick or change the whole team. Some scheduling problems for electives can occur.

Mary Anderson: Culture & Media class in Dual Immersion was dropped for 8<sup>th</sup> grade for next year.

Parents thanked all SCC members, teachers and administrators for their hard work.

Katie Smith: Her student was in the Elementary Choir and many before and after school programs. He only had one elective at DPMS.

DI has hurt the arts. We have a coding club and other after school activities.

**Action Item:** Jodi Roberts will add information on all before and after school activities and clubs to our website.

Mary Anderson: Superintendent promised to give us an extra FTE to support before and after school electives and clubs.

We should send out a survey to see what extracurricular activities students would be interested to take after school. The survey could be done on Canvas.

The District Taskforce will survey all parents regarding electives.

Melinda Colton asked all SCC members to think about what to spend the TrustLand Money on for next year. Agenda items should be send to her by February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 3 p.m. in the conference room at DPMS.

Future meetings: March 16, April 20, May 18

**Adjournment:** 4:30 p.m.

Daniela Dulger, DPMS SCC Secretary – January 20, 2016