Community Council – 2/27/13

Attendees: Michelle Madsen, Kristine O’Brien, Sabrina Petersen, Kimberly Chytraus, Heidi Baer, Jaren Angerbauer, Becky Diederich, Mrs. Gonzales, Jennifer Kleinman, Tina, McGill

1-Budget Update

– Council asked if Tina can show us numbers including all payments pending so we can tell how much money is left for the year of what we budgeted. Tina says she would email out the info in a format similar to the budget worksheet we used in the fall.

-The aides we are spending money on are working out great. She would love to see all the aides we have stay until next year. The #1 thing they use their time for is working with students not clerical tasks. In 2nd and 3rd grade they are sharing an aide and Tina has asked them to be flexible with their teaching schedules to better utilize the aide when they are there. It is a rotating schedule by quarter.

2-Training on Technology Update

-Since we purchased several IPADs last year there has been discussion about how much the teachers use them. Right now they are not used a lot. Many teachers do not feel comfortable with them and the process of buying apps is very difficult. All app purchases have to be approved through the district and it can take months. Becky D. says that at the high school they have several IPAD labs and it is great. She will see if they can tell her how they get it to work. Tina pointed out that they also have built in prep time every day to figure out the technology.

They did have one training for the lower grades on benchmarks but it was not on Dibils and the server was down so it was not very effective. Tina says they got the IPADs specifically for Dibils testing but it has not been smooth and they need training on progress monitoring. Mrs. Baer says that most teachers just don’t have time to figure it out. It was suggested that maybe the school should offer training during lunch or Friday after school that would be optional.

3-Fine Arts Specialist

-The school will have no say in the person or hiring.

-All teachers have been polled on several options for the art specialist and most have voted for Scenario 1 which his to have the art mirror the PE specialist on different days and to have Choral Music for everyone in the school be the focus. 2 classes go at a time.

-Another option being explored is for all the classes to go to PE and ART at the same time so that all 4 teachers in the grade level can meet together once a week. The concern is the noise level and space available. Music would need to be on the stage.

4-Dual Immersion Update

-A letter went out last week to the kindergarten and 1st grade families regarding interest in a dual immersion Portuguese program at Driggs. The letter was created by the district. 37 surveys were returned and only 11 were in favor of the program so the process ends here. There was not enough interest to move forward. The process began when a parent inquired at the district about starting a dual immersion program at Driggs. Had there been enough interest the next step would have been a parent night to educate parents about what the program is. Right now it is not happening. Mrs. McGill was disappointed with the reaction and that the trust level was not there that she was following a district process. Mrs. McGill suggested that it would be great to have a dual immersion school in the district that people commuted to. Jennifer agreed with this suggestion. In the future Mrs. McGill asked that the community council members help by always representing facts and staying neutral on issues when talking to other parents.

5-Bullying survey by the District –

-All children were surveyed and we now have 42 pages of data to summarize and send it in to the district. Right now to address bullying in the school we are using the Bully Box but it is minimally successful. They try to supervise the students well. Students having issues are put on level contracts and privileges are taken away. If there are Safe School Violations those are escalated to the District.

Tina will work with aides at recess to not be dismissive when students complain to them of bullying. They are told to tell the person bullying to stop and then to talk to an adult. There is a school counselor at the school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and some Fridays. We also teach Prevention Dimensions in the upper grades and the kids can earn a ticket to the Bees game. Mrs. McGill says it would really be nice to have a full time Counselor and a full time Behavior Health Aid (we have part time for both). We deal with a lot of anxiety related issues at our school. Someone asked if the Bus Drivers have training and Tina said she wasn’t aware of any training for the bus drivers but if there are issues they do let her know and she can make the decision whether the student can continue to ride the bus.

6- Business Partner Update

-Kimberly was not able to focus on this during the last month so there was no update.