

Highland Community Council Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2016

1. Minutes approved with no corrections.
2. Grade reports:
 - a. Kindergarten (Mrs. Beck): Have purchased new higher level readers to address the fourth essential question...how do we help kids who already know it. They are doing a lot of work with higher level readers and have purchased new books. Parents work with kids on higher level reading. They also use iPads a lot to do guided, leveled concepts. This allows them to do math and reading at their own levels. Suggestions for Trust Land money next year: additional aide time.
 - b. First grade (Ms. Heinrich): Also addressed the fourth essential question by purchasing new non-fiction books, organizers to help them organize their thoughts for writing. They have had aide time this year and think that it has made a huge difference. Everyone is working hard on that fourth essential question. Ideas for SCC money next year: Freedom Elementary has a program for kids over the summer that helps work on reading. Ms. Heinrich thinks this is a great program and would be a good help with our students. Idea for third through sixth graders: Have an aide in the library to help with homework during lunch.
 - c. Second grade (Mr. Milne): Also got guided reading books to help address the fourth essential question. They would like to get some cds to put on their Kindles.
 - d. Third grade (Mrs. Olsen): Third grade already has access to lots of books that are both higher and lower level books. They ordered non-fiction magazines (National Geographic Explorer) with their money. Helps them learn how to write informationally also. Sometimes they send them home and sometimes they re-use them. Reflex math helps with times tables. It's like RazKids for math. Concern: Kids that might fall through a crack...kids that don't qualify for TLC or resource but are right above that. How can we help with that? Something like double dosing? Kids come and get helps with the concepts they need.
 - e. Fourth grade (Mr. Ockey): Would also love aide time...even to help grade papers because that frees up his time. Idea for Land Trust money: new sound system would be great...some years he is required to use it and it doesn't work very well at all. Hearing your teacher has proven to improve learning outcomes☺!

- f. Fifth grade (Mrs. Asay): Has been working hard on common assessments on language arts, and worked on keeping on the same chapters together. Have started to ability group a little bit that way. This has been good in helping students learn the concepts. Fifth grade would also like aides...they haven't had any aide time this year...district ran out of money for aides at upper grade levels. Everyone seems to like the idea of new microphones. Mrs. Asay has a few clubs she runs during lunch...a book club, a social studies club, will do a robotics club.
 - g. Sixth grade (Mr. Hawvermale...pretty sure I spelled that wrong): have worried that ability grouping has some stigma, so the sixth grade decided to not go that way. Does some pre-teaching and re-teaching in the morning. Which is great. Does some pre-teaching of seventh grade information, so that they are doing a little seventh grade homework as well. This has given kids some confidence going into junior high and in applying for ALL. These kids are getting sixth and seventh grade homework and information. Would like to buy some seventh grade materials so they would have that available. Dr. Faulk would like a marquee. Some teachers wonder how that contributes to student achievement.
3. Can we find out what licenses the district has so that we can use them for software? Seems like there might be resources that we aren't taking advantage of.
 4. Reflex math (according to Cedar Ridge) costs less than \$3000 for the school. We will look into that.
 5. We will also look into a sound system.
 6. We will also think about aide time...
 7. We need to look at that to finalize our Trust Lands budget for next time.

Just listening to this makes me remember what great teachers we have who all work so hard. I just think they are so great.