

Our School Community Council Needs You!

Parents, are you interested in being connected and involved at Valley View? The School Community Council is a council of five parents, two teachers, and the principal, tasked with using School Land Trust Funds to improve student academic performance at Valley View Elementary. We meet for approximately one hour each month throughout the school year. If you are interested in participating, or if you know someone you would like to recommend, please complete a nomination form at the school office before 3 p.m. on Friday, August 31st, 2012. Elections will be held September 4th thru 6th.

Why is the School Community Council important, and what does it do?

In 1894, Congress granted 1/9th of all the land in Utah to a trust to support public schools. Millions of acres of land are held in trust and used to support schools. Our Utah schools own enough land to equal the state of Connecticut in size.

The school trust lands are managed by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). Revenues are generated through leases, sales, minerals and real estate development. Billions of cubic feet of natural gas were produced from these lands last year to warm our water, cook our food, and support our schools.

Revenues from these lands are placed in the permanent State School Fund, which is not spent, but invested by the State Treasurer. The annual interest and dividends from these investments go to every public school in Utah (approximately \$20,000–\$50,000 each year, depending on the number of students in the school).

Each school elects a school community council consisting of parents, teachers and the principal. The council prepares a plan that identifies the school's greatest academic need(s). The plans are approved by the local school board for implementation the following school year. The council receives the annual dividend every July to implement the school's approved plan during the next school year.

Valley View's School Community Council decides how our School Land Trust funds will be spent. We develop a School Improvement Plan, a School Land Trust Plan, and a Reading Achievement Plan. We develop a Child Access Routing Plan to ensure our children can get to and from school safely. We also assist in developing a Professional Develop Plan for our school employees. We are a liaison between the parents and the administration. We pass on praise and concerns, and advise the administration on local issues.

For more information visit:
<http://www.schoollandtrust.org/>