

Midvale Elementary
School Community Council
April 21, 2016

Present: Andrea Person, Steve Brown, Carrie Wagner, Tristin Duncan, Heidi Sanger, Jeri Rigby, Sonja Anderson, Noelle Jones, Chip Watts, Debbie Johnson,

Heidi Sanger spoke about the WATCH D.O.G.S.(Dads of Great Students) program. She would like to implement it next school year. This would provide a positive experience with a male presence. It would also increase our volunteer base. She noted they would need to find a Top Dog to be the face of the program. Steve Brown volunteered to be the Top Dog. It was suggested to make a list of great dads. A short list was submitted. There could also be Co-Top Dogs.

There will be a Pizza Launch Night in the fall. The dads could find out more about the project, pick a day, and help in various places throughout the day. They could work the crosswalk, greet children, work the lunchroom, and play at recess.

The program has been purchased for \$400. The dads would have to buy their own shirt or we could have several shirts available in different sizes. The kids of WATCH D.O.G.S could also get a shirt.

Andrea asked who would coordinate. It will be an online sign up, scheduling could be a different person than the Top Dog. Heidi said she could take some of that burden. For additional questions, she can see what has worked and what doesn't at the local elementary schools where it is already in place, such as Crescent and Sunrise.

Carrie indicated that Cheryl with the PTA would help with the kick off next year. She has been planning a similar Dads and Donuts event.

Andrea indicated that parent have been asking about the Math Common Core. They are asking why we need the "new math." There states created it so they can all be on the same page and the standards unify what the students learn. Noelle said that students are simply accessing the information that their parents learned, but in a different way. A very lingo specific discussion ensued. (I had to spend all my brain power listening and couldn't write anything! I scribbled down something about 'content integration' and 'structural supports' and 'BASAL'...) The discussion explained how the school and the district teach and gauge the results. They want the students to be able to know the information and also be able to explain it.

Tristin asked what the feedback was from teachers. Chip said it depends on what year of implementation of the program. Now teachers ask what is the standard. Teachers are in support of common core standards. The standards are based on instructional model standards.

Andrea noted there is no common core curriculum. The standard is set by National Governors Association (NGA). These are not federal standards. Each district makes their own BASALS and curriculum implementation.

Tristin indicated many parents are bothered that the teachers have to meet that standard. Noelle said that having it common across the nation is good. Chip said it was the industry standard and it is measured by the SAGE test. Sometimes the SAGE test doesn't align well with the State Standards. The SAGE tests the standards but is a much more rigorous test. The previous test, the CRT, was multiple choice. The SAGE test is language based and read to the tester in English. It is also much more comprehensive and tech driven. The district has been asked to up their standards to meet the goals of the SAGE.

Claudia asked the question if we teach to the standards, why are we not meeting the standards? What is the difference? Chip answered that the school will need to increase the rigor to meet the standard this year.

Tristin expressed that the United States has been ahead in the world because we produce passionate open minded people.

Steve answered saying that setting a baseline doesn't hold children back. Much of the weight is on teachers to help those children that are advanced.

The schools feel a lot of pressure because of the SAGE grade given yearly. It is a very public measurement of a school's growth throughout the year. Teachers are also graded and evaluated on their progress.

It was noted that the district doesn't have the responsibility for this. It is the State Board. Steve noted he would feel better if the decision were made more locally.

Noelle said the Spring assessment was done by the University of Utah and approved by the state. The plans for our school that were developed by the U are individualized for our school. A similar school to ours, Copperview Elementary, also had the assessment done and they have a different plan than us. It is very specific and local to our school.

Andrea noted that for parents that complaints or feedback, they can get involved locally and make a difference. The state doesn't get involved until very late in the game. Involved parents can start by communicating with the school board. Our rep Robert Green has been very receptive to parents input. She opined that common core standards were fabulous and necessary, especially for military families that move frequently around the United States. In regards to parents 'Opting Out' of the testing, they are misinformed. It limits the child and their next year's teachers.

Chip indicated that Midvale is a Priority School. Its been good and we have seen improvements. Noelle said they are trying for change on the local level. Tristin noted parents must be informed in the upcoming elections. She also noted that parents are 100% in charge of their student's education wherever they go.

Chip noted that the best change is on the grassroots level. The local SCC has a voice for where the school goes. The CSIP and Land Trust is a great way to measure progress. A night could be used to invite families out to learn about it. Full time translators can be requested from the district.

Four applications were submitted to be on the School Community Council. It was discussed that we change the time for the next meeting to be in the evening. We can then ratify the SCC board members.

Various ways to inform the public are the school marquee and school newsletter. Steve noted the Midvale Park marquee can now be used to advertise community events, including school.

The school will be holding a Rock the Sage assembly on Thursday, April 28. They will encourage the students to do their best, and get plenty of sleep and eat a good breakfast on the morning of their testing.

The next SCC meeting will be held May 18 at 6pm. Invite everyone!