

Horizon Community Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/14/19

Time: 7:45-8:30AM

Meeting location: Conference room, Horizon elementary

Council Members Present:

Parent members: Omer Carrothers (Chair), Lisa Milkavich, Penny Graven, Jemma Hamilton, Liberty Kluse

Employee members: Heather Nicholas, Karen Peterson, Michelle Smith (Vice Chair), Karen Peterson

Council Members Absent: Cody Giles

Agenda items:

1. **Welcome/ review of job responsibilities:** Each member introduced themselves and stated which grade their child/ children where in or there professional role in the building.
2. **PTA items (Maren Patterson):**

PTA President statement: PTA is a one year term, can serve 2 consecutive terms. PTA- Independent advocate organization that works in compliment with the CC. Priority is students. She believes the CC focuses on math, reading, and measurable test scores. The PTA focuses on rounding out the CC focus with programs like the science fair, spelling bee, bell choir, reflections, and a new after school art program (later in the year). Horizon has the top raising PTA program among district elementaries, more per student than any other school (except for Liberty elem), the highest grants. Last school year, \$18,000 in grant request on top of what the PTA planned to fundraise. Members of the PTA voted to financially support fieldtrips last school year = \$4000.

 - PTA handbook states it cannot give money directly to the school.
 - PTA suggesting the CC have a fundraiser yearly so that administration can dictate the use of the funds. The PTA will provide man power to assist with the CC's fundraiser.
 - PTA's goal is to "raise the same amount of money as we have in the past but more of that money going directly to the school to shift power from the PTA & empower the administration to fill the needs of the school."
 - Fieldtrip budget- PTA asked if the district allocates this money per # of students or per school. Where should the budget be pulled from (district or PTA)? The PTA president stated that Horizon's enrollment is now significantly larger than the other elementary schools in the district. She then suggested that our district funding for field trips should be significantly larger as well.
 - Structured recess- An anonymous donor was donating \$1000 a year for structured recess equipment. This is no longer occurring. Equipment for structured recess is not included in

the schools budget. The school has asked the PTA to fundraise for this. The PTA president stated the PTA cannot fund this. (It was unclear why? Does the PTA believe this is a part of the core curriculum?) The conversation seemed to use the terms 'structured recess' and 'recess equipment' interchangeably. The two terms may need to be defined in future discussion and clarity given to which Horizon requires funding for.

- CC members asked if they could receive a list of what PTA can/will cover? It sounded like the PTA has the ability to choose from a large array of topics and then fundraise for the chosen topics. They cannot just raise money year round to have finances available to the school.
- Parents do not realize there are two separate bank accounts (one controlled by the schools administration and the other by the parent/teacher organization).
- CC members asked if a list of the school's funding needs could be published, with information on where the funding comes from for each item. Items that are not covered but are still needed should be included on this list.
- Both PTA & CC agreed that the number one priority is the students at Horizon elem.

3. **Fundraiser thoughts/ suggestions (Ms. Nicholas):**

- The Community Council (CC) is only allowed one fundraiser per school year.
- CC held a fundraiser every other year in the past.
- The Fun Run is the largest fundraiser, raised \$13,000 last year.
- It is too late to take on the Halloween fundraiser (only a few weeks until Halloween now).
- The CC will host the "Yes days" fundraiser for St. Patty day in March.
- The CC will host the Fun Run fundraiser in 2021.

4. **Accadience (Formerly DIBELS) review:** – Ms. Peterson presented Horizon's result to the CC. In summary, Horizon's results per grade level compared to district results.

5. **Digital citizenship review :** - Ms. Nicholas handed our packets from the district's training. The CC needs to review digital citizenship & safety. "School report"- Ms. Nicholas will condense the information she has already gathered & send them out to CC members in a google doc.