

Minutes for Uintah SCC Meeting

01.09.2020

Attendance: Amanda Funai, Angie Carter, Jennifer Foth, Amy Taylor, Erika Hill, Jacob Skog, Samuel Hanson, Melissa Ford, Ellen Schwede, Bruce Simpson

- **Welcome & Introduction**

Erika asks if we should move next meeting to 3rd Thursday of February (20th) as it is a half day before a break. Those in attendance agree; will confirm with Bruce.

- **Introduction & Update from Bruce Simpson**

Bruce Simpson introduces himself. 20th year in education. Grew up locally and lives here still. Has 9 children; one at UVU, a few at Highland, some at Hillside and Highland Park, and one not yet in school. Fan of comics, lover of languages. Lived in Belgium and Holland, speaks Dutch, German, and Spanish. Excited to be at Uintah. Has been talking to students from the standpoint of “stories”, which are powerful devices. It will be a theme this year – what kind of stories are we telling, about our community as well as our school? Among children and adults alike. He has told the children that we know two things about Mr. O’Brien: he is safe, and he is on leave, so he won’t be back this year. Everything else is just a rumor. He is asking the students to ask themselves 3 questions: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? He also mentions that we as adults can do better. With children clearly there is a caveat: always tell if someone is hurting you. But concerning our climate and our culture, we have some work to do, and need to think about what we say very carefully. He plans to be blunt about this, and keep this in mind when working toward healthy relationships with the adults and modeling them for the kids. We have the potential for a good climate in the school.

Jacob asks if Bruce is here just through the end of this school year. Bruce knows only as far as the end of the year.

- **Land Trust updates**

Appears to be up-to-date with the exception of the SCC list. Bruce will update this on the state portal before the next meeting. Melissa appreciates the group’s work on this. Next year’s plan comes up in April, so we have some time, but it comes up quick.

- **Safe Routing Plan**

The Route has good ways to get here, if you use Sidewalks, and Crosswalks. However, many people dart across 1300 South. Amy points out that the School Zone ends just before the east crosswalk, so drivers are directed essentially to accelerate as they approach the crosswalk. Bruce can bring that up with the appropriate people. Erika wonders how many of those crossing mid-block are new parents? Jacob wonders if a variance is possible and volunteers to follow up

on this. There is now a Right Turn Only sign at the exit. Brian says there is talk of making the east side Entrance Only.

Ellen reports that parents ask for children on bikes to walk their bikes on the sidewalk between the bike paddock and 1500 East. That is an easy announcement Bruce can make to students. Amanda wonders when bike safety could be discussed. Ellen suggest a Bike Rodeo would be a good event potentially. Angie wonders if texts can be more effective in communicating with parents who may ignore emails. Bruce agrees but stresses they have to be short.

- **School Report Card**

Bruce has a power point. Google “Utah data gateway” and find the link to School Report Card. (Distinguish between Uintah *county* and *school*.)

Achievement describes passing rates for students, while Growth shows change year-on-year. Our school is doing well in both areas. Achievement tracks grades 3-6; Growth tracks 4-6. The State also looks at growth in the lowest 25%; our score is average. In “Growth”, the percentage describes how many children made their growth goal. Melissa points out that Uintah numbers are impressive because when Achievement is already high, Growth can be difficult to achieve. English Learner Progress (only reported if 10 or more students): Uintah students progress ranks as Exemplary. Numbers that may appear low are still impressive because students may have entered the school with very little English. Early Literacy: this is mostly based on DIBELS in lower grades (K-3). It is reported that some faculty had asked questions about the score 62.6% of students reading on grade level. These are opportunities for growth, but still very impressive.

The site also includes a section for Self-Reported Indicators: we have none, but Melissa points out that this is an chance to report to the public things that are not included in the other data. This recognizes that test scores do not provide a full report of a school, the staff, or even an individual student.

In Early Literacy if a student is not on grade level, a letter is sent to parents. Bruce stresses that it is important to have both growth and achievement to provide a fuller understanding of a school, which is a complex system and difficult to define by scores alone.

- **Approve December meeting minutes**

Erika asks if we should anonymize comments from parents. Melissa says that names of School Board members can be retained. SCC members also agree that their names can appear in the minutes, but other parents’ names should be removed (anonymized) before minutes are posted to the website.

- **District news**

The Late Start Listening Tour begins soon. The Board wants to hear how a possible late start will impact families. The final decision has not been made, but they are listening in order to make a decision. Board members and research tend to support this move, but Melissa stresses that the decision is pending because of the “ripple effect” factors. The District website has information to help parents conceptualize how different options might look. The site offers options A, B, C, and D (E will be added soon) to show what schedules might look like. Option E would allow

elementary school with no busses to decide their own start times; those with busses will have to work within that framework. There is a strong effort to make this a community conversation and the Board wants to hear from families and teachers how they will be affected. Angie reports that one teacher concern is the shared governance aspect, and giving up the autonomy schools have to make these decisions; it sounds like option E preserves some of that autonomy. The big restriction is bussing; if there is not a 45-minute interval, things become unworkable. Children need to be collected and returned in a timely manner. The Board doesn't want to impose anything; this is a partnership question. Not every problem can be solved, but want to weigh the benefits of starting high schools later. The research is clear that adolescent students feel better, have improved mental health, and even improved road safety. Ellen asks about middle school start times? Sam says it's disappointing that given our busses we can't move both middle and high school to 8:45. But without the 45 minute gap, some students are always late. Angie asks what percentage of SLCS D is bussed: about 16%. Jacob asks if this change has any legitimate opposition? There is some, but the Board seems to be fully behind this research and making this change for kids. Sam reminds that the District's independent Y2K study garnered 82% support among parents. Bruce points out that child care issues arise for families whose older children currently get out early and look after younger siblings, even picking them up at school. What percentage of the population is this? Unknown. Melissa points out that these kids might instead be able to help in the morning. Some changes might pose an initial challenge but that should not pose an insurmountable obstacle. The Board needs to know more about things that cannot be changed, like a parent's job. Melissa's sense from what she hears is that these things can be tackled. Amanda asks if early outs will be changed? Answer: that is all part of the equation, but can likely remain. This however is a great time to think about the schedule and whether it is working. Jacob asks when a vote will happen. Answer: hard to say, but after the listening tour. The Board might like to vote this year. Bruce asks when it might be implemented: Melissa says that can't be answered yet; it will be part of the decision itself. Sam points out that the Board seems to want to move toward two-tier.

Angie asks about the recent state decision to allow recess to be included in instructional time. Melissa doesn't know yet what if any changes will be made. Uintah has 1006 instructional hours per year. State requires 990; the District mandates 1000. Above that is at the school's discretion.

- **PTA update**

At least 3 museums are coming to Science Fest: Tracy Aviary, NHMU, and Discovery. Toothbrush robots, science lab activity, possibly computer lab if a tech can be found. Two food trucks coming. Ellen wonders if Science Fest made it into classroom newsletters? Event takes place Thursday the 16th. Bruce says we can send out a Power School message; Ellen will send a flier. A message also went out through Member Hub (2/3 of parents are now on Member Hub). The evening will cost the PTA only about \$50.

There was a discussion on air quality at the most recent meeting. The main takeaway was Don't Idle. Air intakes are near the front of the school. One parent was concerned about parents parking near the bike paddock. Bruce has addressed this with a few parents already.

Angie updates that in order to stay inside during recess, children **do** require a note from a doctor. Bruce prefers them to be outside for exercise and interaction, and this is in line with

District Policy. Yellow: kids with medical problems stay in, Red: everyone inside. Under 20 degrees all stay in. Angie wonders what teachers should tell parents who want a child to stay in for personal preference? Should teachers call the parents? It will be communicated to parents in many ways, including a phone call from Bruce where needed; most kids will be fine going out barring medical issues. Jacob asks who supervises children who stay in for medical reasons. Answer: a teacher or a para, in the kiva or gym, with activities.

FYI: we have a school math coach who comes once a month to school!

- **SIC update**

No update. SIC meets tomorrow morning.

Meeting adjourned.