

Indian Hills Elementary—School Community Council (SCC)
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021
7:30 a.m. on Zoom

In attendance:

SCC Committee Members: Tom Luthy, Kim Johnson, Katie Moore, Roshawn Starr, Robyn Rudge

Absent: Keli Beard, Barb Dahl Fassel, Elliot Lof

Others: Melissa Ford, Salt Lake School District Board Chair, Jan—Playworks, Desirae Arends—Playworks

1. Approve Minutes: A council member moved to approve the Jan 13, 2021 minutes and a council member seconded the motion.
2. SIC Report: Nothing new.
3. Principal's Report:
 - a. Tom reported on the transition to the dual mode of in person/online school. So, far everyone is doing well. Teachers are working double duty, but things are going well and kids are doing well.
 - b. IHE has received 60 responses to the parent survey so far.
 - c. The online kindergarten class, with Highland Hills, is going well and allows IHE teachers to focus on in class kids.
 - d. Teachers with both in class and online kids are working very hard and while there's a learning curve, it seems to be going well.
 - e. IHE received the digital learning grant.
 - f. Budget
 - i. IHE has lost about 100 kids this year and therefore, IHE's budget has dropped by \$8000.
 - ii. But, IHE received about \$29,000 from the federal CARES Act
 - iii. Net + \$21,000—IHE is using the money for a new paraprofessional, supplies, computer equipment, etc. There are restrictions on the CARES Act money—it can be used for supplies and paraprofessionals and other ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, but the money cannot be used to retain faculty that the school might lose due to the budget cut. Tom thinks he might be able to move money around to accomplish the same thing.
4. Playworks Presentation, by Desirae Arends

- a. Playworks is 25 years old, born in San Francisco where kids were constantly getting in trouble during recess.
 - b. Theory of Change: if we focus on safe and healthy play, train adults to teach conflict resolution skills, then we can have a high-functioning recess. The program also has an overall impact on the culture of the school.
 - c. Playworks offers a range of services from having a person onsite every day to training teachers to run the program.
 - d. Questions:
 - i. Katie introduced the SCC
 - ii. Tom recounted his experience at Meadowlark with Playworks--showing kids how to run play stations, which gives them responsibility and confidence. There was also a Playworks representative regularly onsite.
 - iii. Desi indicated that Meadowlark had the Junior Coach program. Typically, about 15 older kids are selected to be junior coaches throughout the year. They run play stations, i.e., 4-square. There is also a "recess team" consisting of the lead recess coach, PE teacher, and behavioral assistants that would teach conflict resolution to kids. The school could either have someone from Playworks at the school to run the program as the lead coach or train someone from IHE to run the program.
 - iv. Tom showed a list of costs for the program, depending on the level of Playworks involvement, ranging from \$8,500 to \$1,500 and asked Desi about the costs were still accurate. Desi confirmed that they were.
 - v. Desi and Jan left.
5. Discussion on the Playworks presentation:
- a. Roshawn doesn't think IHE has the kinds of problems that Playworks is designed to help and asked whether the money be spent in a better way?
 - b. Robyn indicated that she sees the kids at school and it always seem like the kids are engaged and having fun especially with the grades separated by levels. She questioned whether Playworks is needed.
 - c. Kim agreed with Robyn--her kids love the levels and the cooperation that is taking place with the kids playing in the same area. She likes the leadership aspect of the junior coach program.
 - d. Tom agreed that the levels are a nice unintended consequence of separating the kids on the playground due to COVID. Keeping the kids in certain levels and changing those levels daily keeps older kids from dominating certain favorite areas and forces kids to play in different areas of the playground and do different things then they otherwise would do. He thinks it is a very healthy playground.

One of Tom's top concerns is PE--he gets very little district support for PE. Turnover has been drastic and the teaching haphazard. He indicated that Playworks can help bridge the gap between PE and the playground. He also likes the conflict-resolution aspect of the program as these are life skills. Tom indicated that money is tight and it is possible that IHE could potentially implement something on its own.

- e. Roshawn asked whether we could find a tailored package at a lower price point?
 - f. Katie was concerned about using PE teachers or paraprofessionals to run the Playworks program because of the turnover. She raised the possibility of creating a SCC subcommittee to put together a set of conflict resolution tools.
 - g. Roshawn asked if Conrad, the current PE teacher, could talk with the teachers to help the teachers implement PE programs.
 - h. Tom said that Conrad's lessons are the best that he's seen in Utah and that Tom will do everything he can to keep Conrad. Tom indicated the district PE program is in chaos due to retirement of the PE director. Also, PE teachers are treated and paid as paraprofessionals--the pay is low and it is very hard work. The teachers work with every kid in the school.
 - i. Katie asked Melissa if the SCC could influence the PE curriculum in the district.
 - j. Melissa doesn't know, but she'll look into it.
 - k. Katie raised the possibility that the SCC could work on a PE curriculum so that turnover wouldn't have such a huge impact on the program.
 - l. Katie indicated that only ½ of the SCC was in attendance, but she's hearing that using trust land funds for Playworks might not be the highest priority and that we should wait to see the budget before making a decision.
 - m. Melissa left the meeting.
6. Kim—PTA Report.
- a. A PTA meeting was scheduled for Feb 11. The PTA is in a "do whatever we can do to help" pattern. It is now looking at the budget and where money will be spent with kids back in school. One of the things the PTA would like to do is to reach out to the community--families that have left, or families that have never been to IHE. The PTA is considering sending a postcard to highlight the programs, arts and science, and drive up enrollment as much as possible. It needs a list of families/addresses.
 - b. Katie suggested that the postcard should invite the community members to an orientation.
 - c. Kim said that it is all preliminary. The community probably can't have a typical in person meeting, art night, or the regular carnival yet, but potentially we could have a different kind of community event outside.

- d. Roshawn suggested social media?
 - e. Kim said the PTA has an Instagram page and posts to it. The school doesn't have a huge following, but they are thinking of posting to Nextdoor and potentially creating an IHE Facebook page.
7. Roshawn moved to adjourn the meeting and Kim seconded.