

McNeil Canyon Elementary

Site Council Meeting

12 Nov. 20

Members Present: Pete Swanson, Kristi Baum, Amy Budge, Eric Engebretsen, Joy Overson and Corise Story.

Members Absent: Scott Fraley and Mark Marette

Others Present: School Board member Zen Kelly

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm.

Site News:

Kindergarten in-person attendance is consistent and loved by the staff. Pete shared that we had to postpone our AIS with Sharleen Cline to the first two weeks in February. We are planning on having a Spelling Bee in the new year and some of our 4th – 6th grade students are working hard towards placing in this year's Battle of the Books again. As a school, we are working hard at keeping all the McNeil favorites on the calendar that we can.

KPBSD Budget Update:

District is about 7.5 million off from the previous projected budget due to the district student count being down from what was originally expected. Next year's projection is said to be significantly low. They are expecting 19 million. With a reserve fund of about 4.3 million with the intent that what is used will be returned within 3 years of use. Pete's projected student count he sent to district at the beginning of the year was 111 and he has heard that district may have us set below 100. This could mean staff cuts. He is expecting drastic cuts across the board. Zen added some details as to some of the possible changes we may see next school year. He added that the board will be looking at every avenue to make the budget changes work for the district.

Pete let us know that he is advocating that district sees K-2nd as essential and has them in-person during a red level school closure. He has expressed this idea at every level of district possible. Pete expressed his concerns about the A/B schedule at an elementary level and does not see how it would alleviate exposure to our staff. He also recognized how it would cut teacher prep time in half. Amy believes that if all kids were in-person it would ultimately cut down on possible exposure compared to an A/B schedule. She stated that the more time students are not in the school they are more likely to gather with outside groups which may raise the level of exposure. Kristi shared that the feedback that she received from parents was that they want their kids back in school. They expressed that remote is not a good alternative and our kids are suffering both emotionally and educationally. No blame is being put on teachers. With the situation at hand, teachers are doing a great job but it is not an equal level education as learning in-person. Pete asked Zen if threshold levels are being looked at to reset the metric and is asking if district has set it too low. Zen agrees and would like the thresholds to be reassessed. Zen shared that one of his biggest concerns is transmission numbers within the district between staff and students. If transmission surges in the schools, there will not be enough staff to keep schools open. Joy said that our parents have now written letters to the school board and completed the survey sent out by the district. Parents would like to know what that next avenue is for their voices to be heard about getting kids back in-person. Zen welcomed parents to attend the school board meetings via Zoom and to participate during the public comment time. He also encouraged the Site Council to write a joint letter to the school board with the concerns presented at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Overson