

McNeil Canyon Elementary
Site Council Meeting
4 May 17

Members Present: Pete Swanson, Matt Hakala, Sean Rhodes, Eric Engebretsen, Mark Marette, Melon Purcell, Kendall Dellasperanza and Laura Sheldon.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm.

Pete handed out information about school funding by the Borough Assembly. We have one teacher retiring and that job was posted last week. There are not as many applicants as we normally have. However, all hiring is on hold until the State determines their budget which then determines our budget.

Right now our projection is 130 students and the District is basing our budget on 128 students. Sean asked if there was a possibility that Bill's position wouldn't be hired. The District has raised the PTR for small elementary schools, which includes our school, from 19.5 to 20.5 but Pete is pretty sure we will have another teacher.

Pete handed out the Pupil Activity reports. Any questions were answered.

Site News. There are 14 days of school left. We are putting up the backdrop tomorrow afternoon for the pirate musical. The Musical is on Thursday, May 11. All present are invited to the beach on May 12th. There are lots of field trips happening. Hawaii Day is May 19th. Step-up and 6th Graduation is May 23 and Play day on May 24.

The Homer Chamber of Commerce has Michael Johnson speaking. He is the State of Alaska education commissioner.

Pete reported that our District has entered into an agreement with Education Elements. They help with Personalized learning. We have been using the term blended learning. Basically it is letting the student have some choice as to pace and place of their learning. Personalized learning means to be taught at their level and to their learning style. Really that is how elementary schools have done business for years utilizing centers, stations, etc. There will be 3 waves of implementation. We are in wave 2 scheduled to begin in Jan. 2018. The 3rd Wave includes all of the large high schools and across the water schools and will start at the end of 2018 year.

Education Elements has done this with many other schools and districts.

Sean asked how the District can afford this contract when we are facing budget cuts. It was commented that some companies offer their software for free. Kendall says nothing is free forever. They usually start out free but then you have to pay down the road. Pete said that the

District is using curriculum money for this contract with Education Elements, instead of using the money to purchase actual books.

Pete expects to receive budget info. over the summer. Those present agreed that the best way to get that information to them would be by e-mail.

Pete thanked everyone present for being on the Site Council. Sean and Eric's terms are up at the end of this school year. However, they are both willing to run for re-election. Voting will be on May 11th.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Sheldon