

McNeil Canyon Elementary
Site Council Meeting
13 Oct 16

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

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Pete handed out copies of our school budget. The District wants us to look at our site budget and let them know how we see it could be reduced by 10% for next year.

Pete handed out the current District 5 year plan and inserted our goals under the district strategic plan goal that it pertained to. The District wants us to highlight any areas we want to see carried forward in the future. What we value as a group will be forwarded for use in making the new district strategic plan. Those present reviewed our school goals for this current school year.

Pete explained a bit about Canvas. This is the second year the District has had this program. Eric asked if it was going to be around awhile and is it used. Melon suggested saying “update an activity” instead of “course.” Melon sees lots of value in the Canvas program even for her 2nd and 3rd graders. Matt asked how often the District changes programs like this. Joanna uses a blog and she can still use it. Pete says the District is committed to a learning management system and he thinks they will stick with Canvas.

Pete wanted us to be aware of how our school goal had changed since we last reviewed it. A technology survey will be given to all staff and students by Oct. 21st. Older kids will help younger ones complete the survey.

He thinks Canvas is pretty usable. If you see anything in the District strategic plan that you identify as a valued thing, please let him know by 21 Oct 16.

Those present reviewed the Budget process presentation.

Pete pointed out from the handout given to everyone that there are 5 other videos that can be viewed. The general fund for our site was reviewed.

Sean left at 6:40 pm.

We need to cut \$137,000 from our site budget. Mark asked how many schools are realizing gas savings and we aren’t on the grid. Melon thinks we should look at increasing revenue instead of cutting budget. Pete commented that there are schools that are 40-50 kids below projection. Mark noticed in the presentation it asks us to talk to legislators but not borough assembly

members. He asked if we need to worry about the Borough not funding to the cap. Pete says they didn't fund to the cap this year. It was under by 770,000. Mark says talk to Kelly Cooper and Willy Dunne to encourage borough to fund to the cap. Melon asked if there was a different way the borough could give us more \$. Pete responded that real dollars and in-kind are all lumped together when determining the cap. Jenny Martin, aide to Paul Seaton, was at the budget meeting at Paul Banks today and talked about Paul's revenue plan for the state. His plan has gotten a good response from our area but Pete is not sure how larger areas will react, such as the Mat-Su Borough.

One idea at the Paul Banks meeting was to eliminate buses entirely. Pete said McNeil has 72 or 78% of kids that ride the bus. Most schools have 30% of kids that ride the bus. Many schools are even in the 15 – 20 % range. Eric asked if it was a requirement from state that students be bussed? Mark asked if we eliminated all aides would that save enough? Pete said an idea was thrown out for less teachers and more aides because they receive less pay. Laura asked what PTR is nationwide. Pete says ANC has 29 – 30 students per class. He has a friend in CA that has 36 2nd graders in her class.

Matt asked about the possibility of closing schools. Pete says it has been in the conversation. Right now the District says they are not talking consolidations. Nikiski closed one school a few years ago. Sears Elementary got swallowed up by Kaleidoscope. Kenai Central HS is down 60 kids. Soldotna HS is attracting football players because they have a successful football program. Mark asked about having Kindergarten cut to half days. Pete said Kindergarten isn't even mandated. Melon asked about other grant funding sources that the District could pursue. Possibilities of raising money thru our gaming license were discussed but it is hard to count on that. Eric commented that the only variable is PTR. Matt wondered what the boroughs budget is for maintenance here. Pete said there may be some more information in the additional videos. There is also more information on federal \$ such as Special Ed, ELL. The ELL program is close to the chopping block.

Pete handed out a copy of the District news release regarding busing. Mark commented - do we lose kids to town with these changes and how many. Pete is sure that we will lose students.

Eric stated he was surprised that our site can operate on a budget like we have. He doesn't know how it can be cut.

The new Site Council bylaw booklet was discussed. No changes were presented.

Eric asked if there is a better time to contact legislators. Pete says now or right after elections instead of once the legislative session starts.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Sheldon