

CUTTEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL MINUTES

January 21, 2025, 5:30 pm
Ridgewood Rainbow Room

1.0 CALL TO ORDER 5:33

Members in Attendance: Shandi, Carissa, Melissa, Tina, Annette, Morgan

Members missing: Nancy, Teresa, Chara, Sean

Becky MacQuarrie visiting to review the Community Grant

Annette asked to make a change with tonight's agenda by allowing Becky McQuarrie to present at 4.1 instead of 5.2 on the agenda.

2.0 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF November 19, 2024 MINUTES

Melissa made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes and Carissa seconded, with the change made in the title from "agenda" to "minutes"

Approved

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT: *Persons wishing to address the school site council on non-agenda items (except personnel) are invited to do so at this time. In the interest of time and order, each speaker may be limited to three minutes (3) to address the school site council, with no more than twenty (20) minutes total of public comment.*

No public comment.

4.0 DISTRICT REPORT

4.1 Review Community Grant

Becky shared a slideshow titled "Cutten Elementary School District LCAP INPUT Expanded Learning/Community Grant, Art/Music 2024-2025"

Becky started by reading our two LCAP goals:

Goal 1 focuses on all students demonstrating growth towards meeting or exceeding standards in academic subjects and English learners progressing in their development of English language proficiency.

Some of the things Becky discussed that we have in place to help with this goal are:

teacher assignments, instructional aide support, student to teacher/instructional aide ratio, music education, library staffing, language development services (ELPAC coordinator), special day class.

Becky told members that having classroom aides at both Ridgewood and Cutten is a priority of the district because we have seen that it benefits students and teachers. It is not common in many other schools to have this level of aide support.

Becky explained that in grades TK-3, classes must have 24 students or below and that we generally have classes around 18-22 students at Ridgewood. After third grade, class size can increase up to 35, but our district keeps the number of kids in classes at Cutten around 27 students. Small class sizes are another priority for our district because we have seen that this helps with student learning.

Becky also said that it is amazing that we have special day and resource classes at both Ridgewood and Cutten.

Goal 2 focuses on ensuring a high level of student, family and community involvement in a safe and welcoming environment where social/emotional and academic well being of each student is emphasized through a multi-tiered system of supports.

Some of the things our district has in place to help with this goal are:

social work and behavioral services, support services to parents, decrease suspension rate, decrease chronic absenteeism, bus transportation service for low-income students, attendance and parent education, school psychologist/counseling services

Becky talked about how we have a social worker at both campuses supporting kids in hard times, helping with regulation and offering behavioral support.

She talked about how our suspension rate is pretty low and that we use restorative practices to help the child move forward in a positive way.

Becky mentioned that chronic absenteeism is an issue, especially since COVID. The district has been trying to help parents know when it's ok to bring a child to school. Melissa asked if the independent study contracts have been helping with absenteeism this year and Becky and Annette said yes. Also, they said our attendance numbers have improved a lot since COVID,

Tina explained the process of creating and completing an independent study contract as a teacher. A lot of work goes into it and it is difficult for a teacher to find work to replicate a day of school.

Becky talked about how we contract with a behavior specialist through SELPA to provide further support to some students that need it.

Becky spoke about the expanded learning opportunities program (ELOP) where unduplicated students must be given 9 hours of care and education a day, after school program, and summer school. Unduplicated students are those who qualify for free and reduced lunch, foster and homeless students and EL. Our free and reduced percentage is around 50% but that number can vary depending on the day the report is pulled.

We let everyone in the after school program now for free. The Cutten and Ridgewood ASP programs have doubled in size. There are still about 30 kids on the waitlist for ASP at Ridgewood.

It is a challenge because we have so many students waiting. It can also be hard to find quality employees to work and we need to follow the rules to get funding. It can also be a challenge for teachers to give up their classroom space in the afternoon because that is their time to prep.

Becky said we do lose some inter district students by not allowing all students into the ASP program. She is going to look at things for one year and see how we are surviving. In the future, Becky may look at a sliding scale.

Becky talked about the CA Community Schools Partnership Program (Community Grant). This grant lasts for 2 years and has separate funding. Tina did this ELCC position last year and did a great job helping the after school programs expand and improve with intervention programs. This year we have a reading intervention teacher at Cutten and another position helping with math intervention. Becky is applying again and she would love to get this funding. Grants are given by unduplicated numbers.

The Art and Music grant has been great. We have a drama club for kids in 3-6 grades. Our musical instrument inventory has increased. Kids in 3rd grade can do choir and 4th-6th graders can play an instrument or more than one. Morgan asked if instruments are provided and Becky said yes. We have a credentialed art teacher doing lessons with all of our students.

Becky passed out an input form and is asking for thoughts. This form can be anonymous and can be turned in to the office at either school. Becky said she is happy to take calls or emails regarding input as well.

Becky reminded members that the bond passed and she is forming a bond citizens oversight committee which will meet 2-3 times a year.

The 5 million dollar bond will help improve the driveway system at Ridgewood and add more classrooms at Ridgewood and more.

Becky will give this same talk tomorrow before math night.

4.2 DISTRICT REPORT

-great earthquake response at both campuses, Morgan asked for details about how things went. Melissa spoke about it being very smooth with her TK/K class. Annette said that not many parents picked up their kids. If the teacher reached out and messaged the families after the earthquake, it seemed like that helped families feel better and they did not feel the need to pick up their kids.

-Great Kindness Challenge coming up soon

-girls finished basketball season and 5th and 6th grade boys season is happening now

-spelling bee happened at Cutten last week and tomorrow is the regional bee

-winter concert this week

-Mr Deshais is coming to present to Cutten about CAASPP testing

-various classrooms at Ridgewood performed holiday songs in December

-dyslexia training for TK-2nd grade teachers starting next month

-14 staff members from Ridgewood went to the Kindergarten conference in Santa Clara this weekend and it was great

-the community meeting regarding the mental health facility near Ridgewood was challenging according to Annette. Tina asked for more information. Annette said that the man in charge is David Gilbert and he is in charge of 10-12 Lighthouse facilities in Northern California. Right now there are 2-3 people living at the facility. Many people had an issue with the fact that this was not on their radar and the lack of communication about the facility opening. One parent wanted security at the bus stop so Annette said that kids can come up to the office and wait for the bus there. Annette is in the parking lot every morning at 7:55 am. Annette thinks that people have fear based on the unknown. The community meeting had lots of angry people and it was not very productive. Annette has had great communication back and forth with David and he is not giving the people living there passes to leave until after 8:30 am (after the rush of kids/families coming in the morning) and no passes will be given from 1:30-2:00 (dismissal time). All fences around the school are locked Monday-Friday and we will have a buzzer system at the gate soon. Support staff will need keys.

-new TK/K students registering for the 2025-2026 school year

5.0 DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Consider Approval of Comprehensive Safe School Plan

Annette went through the plan and worked on all of the revisions that we came up with. PTA will purchase 2 way radios for each classroom

Tina asked if given the edits that Mrs. Sligh made, are we ready to approve the Comprehensive Safe School Plan?

Carissa moved to approve the Comprehensive Safe School Plan and Morgan seconded it. Approved.

Annette will take it to board next month for the final approval.

5.2 Campus Beautification Day

Annette said the garden is out of control without Teddee. Morgan would love to help with it. Teddee comes to Cutten a few times a month to help with the flower garden. Morgan had the idea that kids could be pulled from ASP to help in the garden. Morgan can reach out to Jared at ASP. Annette said it could be a garden club once a month maybe with someone from ASP overseeing,

On a side note, Annette said that next year we will have to have all volunteers do fingerprinting and TB testing.

The group decided that April 17th would be a good date for a Ridgewood campus beautification day. Tina will talk to ASP at Cutten and maybe they can do some beautification things on their own because the kids are older and more independent. Annette sent out an invitation to members for April 17th 2:00-3:15.

6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Meetings- Tuesday, at 5:30 pm

March 18

May 20

Tentative June 10, Annette said this meeting will very likely happen, but we will keep it tentative for now

7.0 ADJOURNMENT 6:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Seymour