

Monte Vista School Community Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 6, 2017  
Monte Vista Gym

Attending from the council: Marinda Wessman, Kristy Ives, Lindsey Branca, Ken Hale, Meredith Doleac, Cathy Ford, Tracy McCurdy

Attending from the district: Anthony Godfrey – Assistant Superintendent, Lisa Robinson – Director of Special Education

Attending from the School Board: Tracy Miller, Marilyn Richards

Other parents and community members in attendance

Welcome and Introductions:

- Marinda welcomed all in attendance and introduced council members, district visitors and Board members
- Marinda mentioned the fundraiser baskets on display and explained goal to earn money for musical instruments

Presentations by Ms. Miller and Dr. Godfrey:

Annually, the district and Board gather to review population issues across the district

Based on these discussions changes are decided on by the end of January

Our goals are to meet the needs of students and the desires of the community

2018 projection for MVE populations is 840

- DLI enrollment will likely increase that number by 25
- District follows building permits
- Student Planning representatives have also driven the neighborhoods because of permits that aren't pulled until right before occupancy
- Estimate of 37 new homes occupied by fall 2018
- McKee Farms homes expected to bring in more upper grade students than lower grade
- School capacity is set at 925 but doesn't take into account a variety of factors

Monte Vista staffing: K-3 22.3 students, 4-6 26.3 students

**Question asked:** are staffing ratios for yearround and traditional schools different? No, they are the same

Last week of August 2017, 23 upper grade students registered – late registrations means that staffing could not easily be adjusted at that point

To compensate for high enrollment, 9 aides have been hired (equivalent of 1.5 FTEs) – all non-DLI classrooms in grades 4-6 have a classroom aide

Special Education – 4 classrooms at Monte Vista

Preschool: 4 classes in 2 classrooms, 103 students, 20 are boundary students, combination of special education students and tuition students

LCDC: 2 classrooms, 28 students, 2 are boundary students

**Questions asked:**

- Preschool tuition: Lisa Robinson answered that preschool tuition supports program and staff
- Close elementary schools with preschool: Rosamond and Bastian

- Are Rosamond and Bastian full? Could they house additional sections of preschool? Possibly, but with projected growth additional sections could not stay long term
- Where is diagnostic Kindergarten housed (for students in between preschool and LCDC)? Herriman, Elk Meadows and Oquirrh

DLI students on permit: 95

DLI siblings on permit: 7 (6 are siblings and could likely enter the program next year)

What is the cause for permits? Wide variety of causes, boundary changes account for some as shown below

- K: 2
- 1: 5
- 2: 4
- 3: 0
- 4: 9
- 5: 4
- 6: 10

**Question asked:** Are there other schools housing 3 special programs? Dr. Godfrey was not aware of any

Amee Rock: Is the state doing anything to help with the DLI population issues?

- Dr. Godfrey – The district receives no DLI funding aside from some initial start-up help and professional development, due to attrition DLI class sizes start high (with lower grade non-DLI classes with low numbers) and end low (with upper grade non-DLI class sizes high)
- We would need additional funding to offset the disparities

Brock Marshall: Our program is set up to fail due to the staffing ratios and resultant disparities

- Dr. Godfrey – The only solution to some of these issues might be to separate funding

Kristy Ives: What are the discussions at the district level to solve staffing and population issues in the DLI program? Are there population issues at SoJo and Bingham?

- Dr. Godfrey – higher class sizes in the lower grades and additional funding for aides
- SoJo is not accepting permits but Bingham is

**Questions asked:**

Were charter school returns accounted for in the decision to change to a traditional calendar?

- Dr. Godfrey – Yes. There were 20-30 charter school students who returned to Monte Vista. As charter schools become more established there is less movement. There is a June 30 deadline to leave a charter and return to a district school.

Were new move ins concentrated in the upper grades

- Ms. Miller and Ms. Doleac – Yes

What are the possible changes?

- Ms. Miller – move special education, move or phase out DLI
- Dr. Godfrey – return to yearround calendar, add an FTE early in the hiring season
- Ms. Miller – growth could add FTEs (initially she said 3, but it was pointed out that projections don't support that)

Are boundary changes being considered?

- Dr. Godfrey – Fall 2019 will see the opening of one new high school, new middle schools and new elementary schools – school openings will affect current boundaries of many schools – district is reluctant to change boundaries prior to fall 2019

#### Discussion on combining DLI classes

- If DLI and non-DLI classes in the same grade combine: there needs to be a physical and boundary between English and Chinese spaces to facilitate the mental transitions between English and Chinese learning
- Other possibility is combining grades (for example 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade English classes would each have their own teachers but would share a classroom, same for Chinese, thus freeing up 2 classrooms
  - o Mrs. McFarland expressed concerns about this – that it is not in the best interest of students
  - o Maren Dalton said that when classes were combined a few years ago in a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom there were significant discipline and learning issues – approximately 37 kids in the classroom
  - o Ms. Doleac confirmed that it was challenging and tricky
  - o Kristy Ives suggested that having only half time English and Chinese teachers raises an issue – when partner teachers are not in the building together at the same time, synergy and support is sacrificed
  - o Do parents in general favor combining classes over phasing out the program? Majority said yes.

Brock Marshall: His family includes two currently enrolled in the DLI program and one child who will likely be entering special education services. He feels that with higher DLI class sizes in the lower grades, the population disparity in the upper grades will eventually work itself out. In the meantime, however, what can be done? He hopes that we can find solutions for the next couple years without moving programs.

- Mrs. Edwards said that she feels that higher class sizes in the lower grades is not the answer. She feels that young students need more attention in their English classes and that that cannot be achieved in classes of 27. Is it possible to have multiple DLI classes in the lower grades and then let attrition and higher staffing ratios help in the upper grade classes.
- Mrs. McCurdy wonders what can be changed in the program.
- Mrs. McFarland asks why we experience attrition.

#### Questions asked:

Why can't the kiva be used as a classroom? Can Mrs. Helton go from class to class to teach music instead of having her own classroom?

- Mrs. McCurdy stated that Mrs. Helton needs her own classroom and that she wouldn't be able to run an effective program if she had to move from class to class.

Is it nationwide to start lower grade DLI classes high?

- No. This is a Utah (maybe district?) thing.

Can staffing ratios be changed?

- They haven't been changed for a long time.

Trisha Jensen: She hopes that the preschool stays. It has been a positive experience for her daughter.

**Questions asked:**

What about multi-grade classrooms?

- It has been done, but the district has moved away from it recently.

Maren Dalton: Combining DLI classes doesn't work. The classes are too big.

Dr. Godfrey: Our priority is to provide good experiences for students, families and teachers.

Lindsey Branca: Do we have any upper grade non-DLI teachers here to share experiences?

- None in attendance.

Carri Newbold: What can we expect to have happen next?

- Ms. Miller – The Board will look at the DLI program and staffing. The Board is open to all options. She provided her cell phone number 801-243-6253 and email address: [tracymillerut@gmail.com](mailto:tracymillerut@gmail.com)

Kristy Ives: Has the district considered grade reconfiguration?

- Ms. Miller – Yes, but grade reconfiguration would likely require another new high school.

Maren Dalton: Will there definitely be a change?

- Ms. Miller – Yes.

Trisha Jensen: Will we know by January which programs will be affected?

- Dr. Godfrey – Yes, but we might not know where the programs will end up until later. If the DLI program is affected, it will not be moved, but phased out. It may be phased out to a different school (ie siblings will be guaranteed a spot at a different DLI school).

Lisa Robinson: If preschool programs are moved, it will likely affect boundaries of other preschool programs in an effort to keep all preschoolers as close to home as possible.

- Dr. Godfrey – reinforced the complexity of moving Special Education classes

Richard Robins: Has ALPS at Jordan Ridge been looked at?

- Dr. Godfrey – Yes. There has been review of ALPS and possible calendar change for Jordan Ridge.

Dr. Godfrey provided his cell phone number: 801-599-5822



