

**MURRAY CITY-SCHOOL COORDINATING COUNCIL
MINUTES**

The Murray City School Coordinating Council met on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015 in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Council Members Present

Diane Turner- Chair
Dave Nicponski
Jim Brass
Brett Hales- excused
Blair Camp- excused

Board Members Present:

Kami Anderson
Mitzie Huff
Belinda Johnson
Marjorie Tuckett
Cris Longhurst

Others Present:

Ted Eyre - Mayor
Jan Wells
Jan Lopez
Kim Fong
D. Wright
Jennifer Brass

Dr. Steve Hirase
Janet Towers
Tim Tingey
Chief Burnett
Richard Reese

Welcome – Approval of Minutes

Diane Turner welcomed everyone to the Murray City School Community Council meeting, and introduced herself as the Chairperson for 2015. Ms. Turner asked for approval of the minutes from October 9, 2014. Ms. Tuckett moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Huff seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Turner excused Council Member Hales and Council Member Camp.

Introduction of New Board Member, Kami Anderson-

Dr. Hirase

Dr. Hirase introduced Kami Anderson, a new Board Member replacing Darrel Pehrson. Ms. Anderson ran against Richard Clark and was victorious in the election, stated Dr. Hirase.

School District Report-

Dr. Hirase

Dr. Hirase stated that his report tonight would be a little different. He noted that he is the Chair for the Community Advisory Committee for IMC (Intermountain Medical Center). He is also on another board with similar medical groups that meet on a regular basis. The most recent meeting was at Alta View Hospital in Sandy. In the Sandy area, there is a group called Healthy Sandy Utah. Their mission is to encourage the citizens to live healthier lifestyles. Dr. Hirase stated that he believes many children are not living healthy lives and are not as active as in

previous years. Secondly, it relates to the employees. There have been fairly significant increases in insurance premiums due to the high usage by the employees.

Healthy Sandy Utah is doing a community wide program that helps individuals track and meet certain goals. They focus on such areas as: nutrition & physical activity, controlled substances & addictions, medical & sleep, safety & preparedness, relationships & media, and service, worship & environment. The program is open to everyone and the individuals receive cards for accomplishing the different areas outlined. Participating individuals receive a walking stick and medallions as they earn more cards.

Dr. Hirase commented that Murray has the premier medical society in Utah, a parks and recreation program and also two large insurance companies within the City. He suggested that this may be a way to encourage both the students and the citizens to live healthier lives. He noted that Murray also has the best section of the Jordan River Parkway. He added that there are a lot of opportunities and he would like to contact some partners and come up with a program for Murray. Ms. Huff asked about the involvement and success with the program in Sandy. Dr. Hirase replied that Sandy City is just kicking off the program now so the results aren't known yet. He said IHC purchased the sticks and companies purchased the medallions, so it has been a low cost to Sandy. Ms. Turner stated that she thinks it sounds like a great idea. Ms. Tuckett commented that the challenges are really geared to children. Dr. Hirase agreed and said that is the best time to change health practices. Dr. Hirase noted that many teachers in the schools are already engaged in physical activities with the children.

Dr. Hirase stated that it seems like there is enough interest to move forward and he will spearhead the development of a group. Mayor Eyre asked if there would be people from the business community, and the School District involved in the group. Dr. Hirase replied that would be correct, we well as people from IMC, TOSH and the insurance community. He added that the mall may be a good partner because there are a lot of people walking the mall. Mayor Eyre recommended the Park Center be involved also.

Dr. Hirase extended an invitation to the Mayor and Council to tour the Junior High in April prior to the next meeting. He suggested meeting at the school around 4:00 to tour the facility. He said it should be near completion in April. Mayor Eyre asked when the demolition of the old building would begin. Dr. Hirase replied it would begin possibly in September of this year. He added that there has been a lot of interest from the community about any events to close down the old school. He has been working with Jennifer Covington and Richard Trantor and they are working on dates for a school kickoff and possibly a farewell. Ms. Tuckett said that a portion of the oldest part of the building, that reads industrial arts, would be preserved and located somewhere in the landscaping.

Dr. Hirase mentioned the 3rd West project. There is maintenance and brick work being done on the maintenance and transportation buildings. That is the southwest end of the buildings, and the part of the building first available for move-in, possibly in May. The building on Vine Street would be the warehouse, with the tech department located in front. The northeast building will be the district offices, and construction won't be completed until the end of the year. Mr. Nicponski commented that the buildings are really developing nicely.

Police Report-

Chief Burnett

Chief Burnett handed out some information on the annual school resource officer statistics. He added that the numbers are a bit deceiving because they aren't broken down by school or district. He noted that the first half of the school year has been largely uneventful. These statistics also include Cottonwood High School, he added. He noted that the officers are a little busier at Cottonwood High than the Murray schools.

He noted that when he asks the school resource officers what the biggest problem is, they respond social media. Social media is being used a lot now for bullying. At one time, there was a twitter account called Murray High Roasters, simply a means for people to tear others apart on social media.

He added that the traffic congestion at Parkside elementary continues to be a problem. As the parents exit on 5300 South and attempt left turns, the crossing guards and the children in the crosswalks are basically ignored. The Police Department is open to any suggestions. It has been suggested to make the exit a right turn only exit. He is concerned that people will still make a U-turn or turn down Avalon. The main concern is to protect the kids in the crosswalks. Ms. Tuckett asked about the possibility of opening a roadway that goes up the hill and onto Vine Street. Chief Burnett said the school is located in a residential area, but no one walks to school anymore so the traffic creates a bottleneck. Ms. Johnson commented that when she was with the PTA at Parkside, there was discussion about widening the bridge. Chief Burnett noted that much of that discussion involved the funding for the project. He said that by eliminating the left turn, it would create a smooth traffic flow, but people might not be happy.

Ms. Johnson asked if the Police and Fire Departments are aware of the different emergency plans with all the different schools. Chief Burnett said that they receive copies of the emergency evacuation plans. He said there has been training done at the schools, including active shooter trainings about twice a year. He added that those trainings are also done at the hospital and the mall. Ms. Anderson asked if each individual school develops their own emergency plans. Dr. Hirase replied that was correct. Dr. Hirase added that once Hillcrest is empty, the officers are welcome to use it for training before it is demolished.

Mr. Nicponski asked which drug was most abused in the schools. Chief Burnett replied that it was marijuana. The most common weapon found are knives he added. There was one gun taken from a student at Cottonwood High, but mostly the weapons are knives. He said that just that day they confiscated brass knuckles from a student at a charter school.

Chief Burnett said police incidents could include medical calls, thefts or behavioral issues. Often, it is a medical response for diabetes, etc. He noted that it has been a fairly quiet year so far.

Mayor's Report -

Mayor Ted Eyre

Mayor Eyre noted he just has a few different things to discuss. He noted that the Legislature would begin next week on January 26th. Last year, the session began with 1000 bills and ended with about 800. The City tracks around 300 different bills. Some of the bills of interest to Murray this year include the education bill and securing funding for that. Another major bill is the transportation bill; this may be the year with the necessary window of opportunity to give this bill momentum. This bill may be manifested by a sales tax increase, a tax on fuel or an increase

in a licensing fee, but would all result in more money for roads. People are driving much more efficient cars and purchasing less gas, but still contributing to more and more wear on the roads. The funding for road repairs has been supplemented from the General Fund. There hasn't been a gasoline tax increase since 1996. The costs for asphalt, cement and other materials to repair the roads has increased substantially. He is hopeful that the transportation bill will pass and help out with some of those costs. It saves so much money to repair the roads, instead of wait for the roads to deteriorate and build a complete new road.

Mayor Eyre noted that the City has hired a couple of temporary people to help with the Legislative Session. He commented that he isn't aware if the School Board has anyone on the Hill tracking bills. Ms. Huff replied that the Board follows the bills on the hill. Mayor Eyre offered City resources to follow any bills that the School Board is following also. Dr. Hirase stated that they are watching a few bills, particularly those dealing with capital equalization. He said he would share that information with the Mayor. Ms. Tuckett noted that there is a judicial committee up on the hill every day also. Mayor Eyre commented that the League of Cities and Towns does a lot of legwork and is a big help. He added that there is a weekly Legislative Policy meeting that discusses the timing and details of the bills. Ms. Tuckett stated that someone from the School District is at the Legislature every Friday.

Mr. Nicponski noted that he was at a function and the transportation bill was discussed and it sounded like it wasn't whether it would get done, but more how it would be processed. He agreed that the bill had some momentum. Mayor Eyre agreed and said there are details to be worked out, as far as disbursement, etc.

Mayor Eyre showed the Murray City Magazine. It is the first year this was done. The City purchased 25,000 magazines and delivered 17,000 to homes in the City. The remainder of the magazines would be distributed in hotel rooms, at the hospital, the mall and also City offices. Dr. Hirase said that magazines had been delivered to the School Board Offices. He noted that some students were actually selling them as a fundraiser, and did get in a little trouble for that.

Mayor Eyre said he recently visited the Library for Harry Potter day, and there were about 300 people in attendance. It was really enjoyable and very organized. He said this event was fairly typical of the events they have on the weekends and the draw that they get. He said the Library gets over 400,000 visitors annually, and have 600,000 items in circulation. There are over 654 different programs, with 24,000 participants. He said the Library Director, Kim Fong gives a weekly report of the amazing programs they have going on. There was a comment that Ms. Fong has made a huge positive difference.

Mayor Eyre stated that he, Chief Burnett, and Dr. Hirase are all involved in the Dare Program. He said they have the opportunity to attend all nine elementary schools. He said a selected group of youth get up and read the incredible essays that they have written about the program and the impact it has had on them. These kids have learned so much about alcohol abuse, drug abuse, physical abuse, bullying, and other things, that it is incredible he added. He said also, these kids develop a great love for the police officers. He said that in some communities, there is a disconnect between the officers and the community, but not in Murray. These kids love Officer Black and believe the Police officers are their friends. He said there are approximately 621 fifth grade students and when that number is divided into a budget of \$11,500, it equates to \$18.19 per student. That is a "great bang for your buck", he added. The respect that these kids have for the officers, their City, their schools, and teachers is a wonderful thing, he noted.

Mayor Eyre mentioned that the 4th of July parade is approaching. Next year would be the 100th anniversary of the School District. He would like to plan something special and would like some input from the district.

Recently, he has been attending all the staff meetings for the different departments. It has been an incredible experience for him to answer kinds of questions from the employees. He said three of the most commonly asked questions are: What is happening with the New City Hall, the Performing Arts Center, and also with UTOPIA. He said UTOPIA is the City's largest target. Ms. Tuckett replied that she would like to hear all about the three issues also.

1. Mayor Eyre said the City has decided that Murray has to do something to help UTOPIA become viable. Their marketing and business plan isn't developing fast enough. Murray is implementing their own plan to help people subscribe. He added that the high speed internet that UTOPIA offers is a high quality product. He said it can be offered at a competitive price and the more people that sign up for it, the more the City will benefit and lessen the debt. He noted that many people are scared of UTOPIA because they have had a rough beginning. Many of the problems have been resolved however, misinformation still needs to be corrected. Murray City has an incredible GIS department that made a map and color coded the homes showing whether they are a current UTOPIA customer, a prior customer or never enrolled.

He stated that the large Town Hall meeting last year was attended by nearly 400 people, and the City received 100 surveys and those responses have been mapped out also. The City was broken down into 14 sections with about 500 homes each. The first section had the most highly concentrated area of UTOPIA homes and also homes that had UTOPIA but don't any longer. There are about 1134 homes that have been wired for UTOPIA, but have since disconnected. Those homes already have the wire to the home, and are considered, "the low hanging fruit." Letters were sent to those homes, and the Mayor personally called and invited those people to come to a meeting on January 22nd. Depending on the response from this first section, it will determine the different efforts on the remaining thirteen areas. Ms. Huff replied that the internet service was fine with UTOPIA, but the phone was the problem. He mentioned that many of the ISP's (Internet Service Providers) no longer offer phone service, only a few still offer the triple play programs.

Ms. Tuckett asked if Macquarie was out of the picture. Mayor Eyre replied that was pretty much correct. The City had to pay quite a bit of money to go to Milestone 1, and after that, the City along with four other cities, decided to not move forward with Macquarie and stopped the financial commitment. Mayor Eyre said Murray's portion of Milestone 1 was a little over \$50,000. He added that six of the cities moved forward with Macquarie, and he believes they no longer think that was a great decision. If Macquarie decides it isn't going to work for them, then Macquarie would absorb the cost, even though they are still playing a cat and mouse game with three cities.

Murray is the only City that is instituting its own plan of marketing, etc. Murray made a presentation to all other ten cities, with very favorable responses. However, the other cities want to sit back and watch and see how it works in Murray. Ms. Longhurst asked if phone services and other services would be offered also. Mayor Eyre replied that UTOPIA would get the connection to the house, and then the resident is responsible for choosing an ISP. There are 6 or more ISP's, and they offer different levels of service. UTOPIA just supplies a utility and the resident can choose the provider. Someone could choose to have internet

- service only. He said a list of ISPs would be provided. The ISP's said they would cover targeted marketing also.
2. Mayor Eyre said an architectural firm, Think Architecture, was selected to do the preliminary studies for the New City Hall. They have come up with the square footage needed, and the best placement for the departments. The firm footprint hasn't been decided because the site is still unknown. Most likely, it will be one of two sites: the existing City Hall site, and build it behind the City Hall and then tear down the old building. The other site is on 4800 South and State Street, on property that the City already owns. This decision will most likely be made very soon, depending on the Performing Arts Center.
 3. The decision on the Performing Arts Center should be made this month or possibly in February. The City has made presentations to all nine of the County Council Members, and the Mayor. The final location is between Murray and Taylorsville. He said the funding from the County may be included in next year's budget, so construction would not start immediately.

Other items from School Board or City Council Members

Ms. Huff asked about the construction on 5300 South and Allendale, near the tennis courts, and what specifically is being built. Mayor Eyre said he would ask Mr. Tingey.

Ms. Johnson asked what development was going to take the place of Dillard's at Fashion Place Mall. The Mayor said it would be announced shortly. The new store would be about the same size but pushed out, similar to Nordstrom's, giving an additional 51,000 square feet. He stated that 52,000 square feet would require an additional parking structure, so they are maximizing the amount of the footprint. He added that the existing stores are doing great, and some of the new stores would be first time stores in Utah.

Ms. Turner asked about the 2015 meeting dates. The scheduled date would be April 9th, but the Council would be out of town. The date was set for April 16th for the next meeting, and October 8th for the following meeting. Ms. Turner clarified that on April 16th, they would begin earlier for a tour of the Junior High.

Ms. Turner adjourned the meeting.

Council Office Administrator II
Kellie Challburg