

**MURRAY CITY-SCHOOL COORDINATING COUNCIL
MINUTES**

The Murray City School Coordinating Council met on Thursday, January 17th 2013 in the Murray City Center, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Board Members Present:

Murray City

Dave Nicponski – Chair
Darren Stam
Jim Brass
Brett Hales

School Board

Marge Tuckett – Vice Chair
Mitzi Huff
Belinda Johnson
Cris Longhurst

Excused:

Jared Shaver and Darrell Pehrson

Others Present:

Doug Hill
Jan Wells
Janet M. Lopez
Kellie Challburg

Dr. Steve Hirase
Richard Reese
Tim Tingey

Welcome – Approval of Minutes

Mr. Nicponski welcomed everyone to the Murray City School Community Council meeting. The Mayor was excused. Mr. Nicponski asked for approval of the minutes. Mr. Brass moved, and Ms. Huff seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Economic Development Update – Tim Tingey

Mr. Tingey began with a couple of updates on hotel projects. Mr. Tingey stated that the State & Vine Hotel was going forward. They will be demolishing a couple of the buildings in the next couple of months, are working on the permitting process, and still anticipating a March 1st groundbreaking in construction.

Ms. Huff asked what kind of hotel it will be. Mr. Tingey commented that it would be a Hilton Home 2 Suites that includes 10,000 square feet of retail space in the lower level. Wasatch Broilers are working with them also. Mitzi Huff remarked that that is good that they can stay put. Mr. Tingey said they are working with Albertos and the Subway.

Mr. Tingey said that community development is still working on the Hotel Development across from Hillcrest Jr. High. It looks like an investor group is on board, but it is just taking some time. Mr. Tingey said that he would let us know as that continues.

Mr. Tingey announced that the Redevelopment Agency is meeting to amend a development agreement for the Hamlet site. Mr. Tingey pointed out on the map the area of Fireclay, Main Street, and the existing building. The MediStar Critical Care Medical Facility is under construction right now. The agreement includes having live/work townhome units. There will be 92 owner occupied townhouse units and live/work units. The corners have a commercial element on the lower level. It is the same

product basically that you already see on Main Street that will be along the Birkhill Boulevard. They will be doing the Community Park insulation as part of that. As part of this development, there is 100,000 square feet of commercial space. Mr. Tingey referred to the map. They are actually on the agenda for some replatting to start with the live/work units on February 7th Planning Commission meeting, so they are kind of on a fast track here.

Mr. Tingey noted the downtown site of the State & Vine group that is building the Hilton Home2Suites. There are a number of properties that are for sale or lease; including the Mt. Vernon facility and the facility behind the soccer arena. We don't have any intense interest yet, on these sites, but some groups that have expressed interest on the Mt. Vernon site. Community and Economic Development have a development presentation that will be presented to Woodbury. They have expressed interest in doing a large scale development in this area and have capital to look at investing. The city is hoping to partner with them, or a group like them for this area.

The proposed Oasis Apartment with lower level commercial is still in litigation. Mr. Tingey said he didn't have a whole lot of updates on that, but probably within the next week the judge will make a decision.

The Dahle site, across from Murray High is moving forward and you can see construction occurring there.

Ms. Tuckett questioned if that site would have more apartments. Mr. Tingey replied that their focus is on medical. There may be residential above commercial.

Mr. Nicponski asked how long Mr. Tingey thought this litigation might continue. Mr. Tingey replied that there is a strong possibility that within a week and a half to two weeks it would be resolved. Mr. Nicponski asked if the City could prevail. Mr. Tingey said there is a likelihood of that. It has already gone before the Judge and he is giving a summary judgment. Mr. Nicponski replied that that was great news and exciting.

Mr. Tingey asked for other questions. Dr. Steven Hirase did have a question about a notice they received regarding the Wheeler Farm area being rezoned. Dr. Hirase asked if there was some sort of development that may occur in the future. Mr. Tingey said there is a proposal for a rezone for apartments. A recommendation for denial came from the staff and a denial recommendation from the Planning Commission is being forwarded to the Council. Mr. Tingey said that the property is actually privately held by a group named Camter Development. Mr. Tingey commented that the ironic thing about this is that the parents of the person that own it live in the subdivision adjacent to it. There has been a lot of vocal opposition to that. Mr. Tingey replied that it is a private lane. Mr. Tingey said it was a long Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Nicponski asked what school they would impact. Dr. Hirase said they were in Granite. Mr. Tingey said the general plan shows that as being single family residential.

Mr. Nicponski introduced a new member of the Murray family, Kellie Challburg. Mr. Nicponski welcomed Kellie and said she would be working with Ms. Lopez in the Council Administrative Offices.

Police Report- Chief Fondaco/Dr. Hirase

Dr. Hirase commented that there is actually a law on the books that requires the Police department to report incidents of violent crime of our students to the Superintendent, which Dr. Hirase

doesn't think is occurring. Dr. Hirase said this would also include weapons. This is basically so the School District has a heads up on certain students that they may need to focus some more of our attentions on. This item will be moved to the next agenda, due to the Police Chief's absence.

Hillcrest Jr. High School agreement- Superintendent Hirase and Doug Hill

Mr. Hill addressed the proposed interlocal agreement regarding the usage of Hillcrest Junior High, and more specifically as it relates to the Arts program. Mr. Hill pointed out that the City Council budgeted \$200,000 dollars for the Murray School District to enhance the art facilities at the new Hillcrest Jr. High. Mr. Hill added that the Arts Community has also gone out and received a grant of \$125,000 from the Sorenson Foundation. Applications will be made for another \$75,000. Mr. Hales asked if that was final, and Mr. Hill said yes. So, potentially a total of \$400,000 will go to the District to enhance the Arts facilities.

Mary Ann Kirk, who is the City's Art Representative, has been working with the School District, with Richard Trantor, and Ross Wentworth in the facilities design discussing the community art needs. Mr. Hill said that there is still some fine tuning being done to the Architectural drawings, but it is his understanding that the arts community is happy with the changes that have been incorporated into the architectural design.

Mr. Hill, as well as the arts community recognizes that the \$400,000 is not going to entirely cover the cost of all the changes. Mr. Hill thanked the School District for being willing to help out with the modifications for the Arts. Mr. Hill said the arts community recognizes that they are the big winners in this. Mr. Hill commented that Frank Nakamura- the City Attorney, Mr. Hill, Mr. Hirase, and MaryAnn Kirk have been working on an agreement to be presented to both the School Board and to the City Council over the next couple of months. Mr. Hill believes that they have come to a conclusion on the staff level as to what this agreement is going to look like. Mr. Hill summarized that the agreement says that the City will give the money and that the City and the School District will agree on the facility design. Before it goes to bid, the City and the School will agree what this is going to look like. Mr. Hill mentioned that 30 years is the current term or length of the agreement.

Mr. Hill added that the City will use the auditorium, the little theatre, the storage rooms, the band rooms, the rooms that are arts related in the facility. Fairly specific uses have been requested. In addition; the City, the Murray Symphony and the Murray Concert Band have all requested places that they can store their equipment and certain nights that they can use the facility. Mr. Hill said that the agreement will allow them to use the Junior High School, primarily evening and weekend use; obviously, not interfering with the school day. The Staff of the City have also agreed to get together with the Staff from the School District twice a year and schedule the use of the Facility. Mr. Hill added a clause in the agreement stating that if both sides can't agree to the scheduling dates, then the Murray City School Coordinating Council will be the tiebreaker. Mr. Hill said he can't foresee an instance when that will happen since both parties have worked so well over the years.

Mr. Hill said the rest is legal language relating to the liabilities, and ongoing maintenance operation of the facility. Mr. Hill said that is generally what the agreement says and the Superintendent Hirase will be bringing it to the board, and after the board approves it, then it will be brought to the City Council for their approval. Mr. Hill asked if there were any questions.

Superintendent Hirase went on to mention the add-ons that have been made, which would probably not have been done. There is a full size stage in the auditorium, the same size as Murray High School, which would have been considerably smaller if we had been doing it just for the Junior High. Some additional seating was also added in the auditorium space. There are 820 seats, for a Junior High

of this size, it is a good size. It isn't as large as the auditorium at Murray High school where it would be too overwhelming when not full. We have added a little theater. A little theater would not have been included without the additional support. There is a larger area for storage set aside for the Band and Orchestra. Our band room is slightly larger than it would have been to accommodate the size of both the Band and the Orchestra.

We estimate the additional cost of the whole project is somewhere in the \$600,000 to \$700,000 dollar range. Mr. Nicponski said that the School District has been both generous and gracious in working with the arts community on this. Ms. Huff commented that it was the right thing to do, rather than try and build a separate building. Ms. Tuckett agreed. Ms. Huff compared it to the Park City High School auditorium that is beautiful and is able to do bring some high class events.

Mr. Hales asked about the tennis courts. Dr. Hirase said that is something they would like to approach and do as a joint effort also. Dr. Hirase said they could certainly benefit from tennis courts that would be located together, so the tennis team doesn't need to be spread out over a number of different locations. He also believes that there is a need for additional court space for the community in general. Mr. Hales said he has been contacted by people in his area regarding this issue, more than anything, in the last little while. Mr. Hales said he wasn't aware that Murray High didn't have tennis courts, and was told that there are no home games because there aren't enough courts in one location. Dr. Hirase said that for a long period of time, they had an agreement with the Sports Mall who let them use their facilities at a really reasonable rate. But when the Canyon Racquet Club closed, a lot of their clientele came to the Sports Mall, which eliminated the time that they had available for our tennis team. Ms. Huff asked if the minimum number of courts that you have to have is five courts. Dr. Hirase said yes.

Dr. Hirase said they are actually looking at a couple of locations on the Hillcrest Junior High site that would accommodate that. Another option that may be better is to put them on the Murray High site, with the new football field and track. There might be adequate space to put the courts there. When the City is ready, the District would like to go into a joint venture on those courts.

Mr. Niponski asked Mr. Hill what his take on that was. Mr. Hill said that tennis is very popular in Murray City. He didn't know why; if it is because there are so many tennis players in Murray, or if it because of the nice courts that people from around Murray come to play tennis at Murray. The demand on courts is really quite high. Like Councilman Hales, Mr. Hill has heard from residents that they wish Murray had more tennis courts. The demand that the school has is for daytime use at the tennis courts, and the City's demand would be more for evening time use.

A preliminary discussion has been had about a joint venture which would involve the School District building the tennis courts, and the City paying for the cost of the lighting. That is an early discussion and funding would have to be secured by both parties to make that happen. Mr. Hill said that the School District would want to know sometime in the next year or so. Once the school is built, the District will probably want to start working outdoors to make some of these things happen. Ms. Tuckett asked if we only have the two courts. Mr. Hill said we have three tennis courts at Southwood Park on the East side, three tennis courts at Hidden Village Park on the West side, just off of 53rd South, and the County has two unlighted tennis courts by Riverview Junior High School. Mr. Brass said it is too bad that the City couldn't find a way to buy the property on the corner by Hidden Village and add two more for a total of five. Mr. Hill said that he wasn't sure if there was room for two in that location, which is the challenge.

Mr. Hales asked what the cost would be to build over on the side of Murray High. Mr. Hill said that the cost is about \$60,000 a tennis court, with lights. Mr. Hales commented that they had courts at Magna High. Ms. Tuckett commented that Murray had had them, but they went away when the High

School was built. Ms. Huff said there weren't enough courts when her kids were in high school, but Hidden Village had enough at the time. Mr. Stam commented that there were a lot of tennis courts in Murray Park, that were all taken out when the Rec Center was built. They were right there in the parking lot. They weren't in the best condition but they were used. Ms. Johnson commented on the upkeep that is required on tennis courts. Mr. Hill said that they have to be resurfaced every 10 years or so, and it costs about \$15,000 a court to resurface them. Mr. Nicponski asked what the next step would be. Mr. Hill said that first the City would want to see what the School District's plans are and then Superintendent Hirase could communicate to the City what the District would like. From there it is a budget issue.

Mr. Stam asked if the football field is being redone with the bonding. Dr. Hirase said actually the football field is being done with money that they had saved. Mr. Stam asked about the type of artificial turf that is being used. Dr. Hirase said they are looking at 3 or 4 different types of artificial turf, choosing one that they believe will last them a good amount of time. Some of the turfs have gotten some negative feedback so we want to make sure that we choose correctly. Mr. Stam said he has received a lot of comments about that.

Mr. Hales commented that he has had people ask about outside bathrooms. Dr. Hirase said there hasn't been any discussion about bathrooms.

Dr. Hirase said the track isn't in good condition and they knew it had to be replaced. There haven't been any home track meets for quite some time also, and if they were going to invest in the track, it probably made sense to do the whole thing as one project.

School District Report – Superintendent Hirase

Dr. Hirase reported on the Hillcrest project moving along to the point where they are set on floor plans, so the architect will start doing all the detail work. They anticipate that the actual construction will be somewhere toward the end of March with demolition occurring at the end of February, first part of March. Mr. Nicponski asked about the exodus of residents. Dr. Hirase said they have until the end of the month, and with only one request to have a couple of extra days, which shouldn't be a problem.

Dr. Hirase said one of the other areas, was to start some seismic work on two of their worst schools, which is Riverview Junior High, and Longview Elementary. Those projects are scheduled and the architects are working on the project now. This will start right as school ends and it shouldn't displace any kids to starting school in the fall.

City Council Discussion- Junior Prom discussion

Councilman Darren Stam said that he has noticed over the last several of years that the residents think the City Council has a lot more influence on the school and that the school has a lot more influence on the City, but all are elected to represent the people. Mr. Stam has had a lot of calls on this issue, and had several residents that wanted to attend the meeting. Mr. Stam said he didn't want to overstep Dr. Hirase's efforts because he had spent a lot of time on this issue also. Mr. Stam related a story about a documentary about teachers and schools and the power that some of the Unions have with the teachers. In the East, they brought the bad teachers together and put them in a classroom where they could read books. They were such bad teachers they didn't want them to teach the kids, but couldn't fire them. Mr. Stam wanted to make sure that everyone understands the situation with the parents and why they are so upset.

Mr. Stam related a time about 6 years ago when his daughter, who was on the drill team, had a competition the same night as Junior Prom and the drill team asked if the Prom could be moved to a different night because there was a National Competition that they wanted to attend. The school would not move it, and the hard part was that they could have gone to another competition in a different location, but they wanted to go to New York. So, they had a vote, and the sophomores and seniors voted to go to New York, so all the juniors that voted against it had to make a decision. Consequently, the juniors had to miss the Junior Prom.

Last February, the swim team was made aware of when their state meet would be. The junior prom was scheduled for Feb. 23rd 2013 and the swim meet was scheduled on Feb. 9.

Later, the cheerleaders went to Ms. Sorenson and asked for the prom date to be moved so that they could go to a National Competition, and it was moved to Feb. 9, which is the same date as the Swim Competition. The problem with the State swim meet is that it is in Provo, and will not end until 8:00 pm. The swim team parents didn't find out about the change until around January 5.

In December, the swim coach asked Dr. Dunn if prom had been moved. Dr. Dunn looked at the calendars and assured her that it was still February 23. The parents were later told that it had been changed back in August, and Dr. Dunn had had an old calendar. But in reality, the Capitol was changed in October, instead of August. Had the swim team known in October, they would have pointed out that it was an issue. Mr. Stam said that his family went on vacation to California during the holidays, and on January 2, his wife came back and looked at the school calendar, which still said February 23rd. That night, or the next day, the calendar was changed to February 9.

Now the swim parents are pretty upset, because there are only seven girls or so, on the cheerleading squad that are juniors, but there are 19 junior swimmers. The swimmers have been told they just have to make a choice. Mr. Stam said that Murray swim team is ranked 3rd in State currently, and a couple of kids that are ranked 2nd. These swimmers are not going to go to the swim meet anymore because they don't want to miss Junior Prom. Murray will have a less powerful squad. Mr. Stam said he feels sorry for these kids.

One of the reasons, why they involved Mr. Stam is that he has a junior son on the swim team. The swim team feels like a lower class group. They have been called names, put down, and not respected. Dr. Hirase had a few parents come and meet with him also. One of Dr. Hirase's concerns was that if he changed the date, he would have 50 other parents come to his office. The swim parents pointed out that they did have 50 parents that wanted to come, but out of respect, they only brought five.

Mr. Stam just wanted to make sure that they were aware of it, and the parents have been assured that this will not happen again in the future. But, that doesn't really solve the problem with these kids. The swim meet will end about 8:00 in Provo, and they have to try and get out and get cleaned up. Mr. Stam said that they will not make it back in time for Promenade. Mr. Stam said he thought that maybe the School could at least give them free access to the dance, because they will miss most of it.

Mr. Stam also commented on some bullying issues at the School. Bullying is going on and attacks are being made on personal property. Some of these kids may not be attending the prom because of bullying issues. Out of respect for Dr. Hirase efforts, something still needs to be done about the prom. Mr. Stam has an opinion of who is at fault. This person seems to be untouchable. Mr. Nicponski asked if it was an adult or a kid. Mr. Stam said it is an adult and he believes that this person needs to take some responsibility in this and help these kids feel like they are not lower class athletes. Others asked who the

person is, and Mr. Stam said he didn't want to say the name, but Dr. Hirase knows who it is. Ms. Tuckett asked if this person is the root of the problem. Mr. Stam said it is the same person that told the Drill team "No" six years ago, and it is the same person that has an interest in the cheerleaders.

Mr. Stam commented that hopefully he didn't overstep his bounds, but wanted them to be aware, because he has had several people calling him, even though he isn't on the school board. Mr. Stam said junior prom is a really big deal to the kids here in Murray. Mr. Nicponski stated that hopefully some kids aren't passing up scholarship opportunities to go to the junior prom instead.

Mr. Stam remarked that his oldest boy, 10 years ago, invited a sophomore, and therefore wasn't allowed to promenade either, so none of his 3 kids at Murray have been able to have any promenade experience at junior prom. Others commented that they thought even if your date wasn't a junior, you were still able to promenade, and they would match you up with a junior. Mr. Stam said his son was told he wasn't able to promenade because his date wasn't a junior. Ms. Huff remarked that that must have been an oversight.

Mr. Nicponski asked if the bullying is because his dad is a Council Member. Mr. Stam feels like it might be because he coached baseball for 22 years, and knows the kids that are doing it, even though he hasn't coached those kids. Mr. Nicponski thanked Mr. Stam for bringing that up and sharing it. Ms. Tuckett said that she wishes that the schools could be perfect all the time, but it never will be, as hard as everyone tries; parents, educators, teachers, city council, can all certainly do more.

Mr. Stam said he forgot to mention that the other concern that the swimmers had, was that the Capitol is open every other weekend this month, and in the month of February, so it could have been moved, but that they didn't want to move things because of the contracts with the DJ's, etc. Mr. Stam said, so the bottom line is that it will cost a little bit more money. Dr. Hirase stated that that was not true. He said there are some of those groups, the DJs that could not move that date. Mr. Stam commented that there are other DJs. Dr. Hirase said that if you have a contract with somebody, it is difficult to break the contract. Mr. Stam said still it boils down to a little more money; anything can be done with a little more money, whether somebody else gets a contract, and both contracts get paid. Mr. Stam said, it could be a lot of money, or it could be \$200, he stated he doesn't know but feels like the bottom line is that it would cost more money and that is why it didn't get moved. Dr. Hirase said he disagrees, but that they can disagree about that.

One of the Board members asked if all state tournaments are scheduled a year ahead, and Dr. Hirase replied that they are. Ms. Huff remarked that that was an oversight in calendaring and they will have to make sure it doesn't happen again. Mr. Hales said knock on wood; he has had all five kids go to Murray, and has never had that problem.

2013 Meeting Dates

Mr. Nicponski asked Ms. Lopez if she had a suggestion. Ms. Lopez stated that generally meetings are in January, April, and October. It was decided that April 18 would work for everyone. Dr. Hirase said that the date in October is October 10.

Mr. Nicponski adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Kellie Challburg
Council Office Administrator II