

Fillmore Middle School

Community Council – January 20, 2026

Attendees include:

Autumn Barney
Julianne Johnson
Sally Sagers
Kyle Swallow

Jeremy Teeples
Berenice Diaz
Jody Lawhorn

Meeting minutes from last month's meeting were handed out to look over.

Motion made to begin meeting at 3:07 Jeremy Teeples.

Autumn Barney made a motion to approve minutes from the last meeting seconded by Berenice Diaz.

Time was turned over to Liza Staples for a few minutes. She is currently working with Mrs. Myers to implement one digital citizenship lesson per month for 7th and 8th graders. Some key takeaways:

- Utah literacy scores are high in the nation but trending downward.
- MSD scored lower than the state average for both K-3 (36% vs. 49%) and 3-8 (45% vs 48%) with our high schools scoring slightly higher than the state average (52% vs 46%) per one study, so keep in mind numbers could change results slightly as unsure what components were used for this specific study. (RISE score testing data was not used.)
- Legislation to watch - repeat 3rd grade – if students are not on reading level by third grade, they will repeat it. They are 4x as likely to not graduate if not on level by third grade.
- Bell to bell phone ban. Generally good unless students need to use phones for an assignment. (Example – digital literacy, SORA checkouts)
- No measurable 8th grade slip – Not much decline from 8th to 9th grade.
- SORA checkouts – FMS is #6 of 104 – Not based on population – the only schools with more checkouts have much higher per capita.
- One response to declining literacy – Utah Ambassador for Young Peoples Literature have a committee with activities. They have selected Shannon Hale for the 26-27 school year.
- Shannon Hale is popular with FMS students. We would like to apply jointly with FES for a free author visit featuring her. One school from each district will be selected. (approximate value \$4,000-\$6,000)
- Some of the rubric items include small group items including a writing workshop, whole school assembly, Eagle time could be used to familiarize students with her literature. Also need permission from principal and endorsement from community members.

Motion to endorse author visit if application is successful Jody Lawhorn seconded by Sally Sagers. Principal Teeples gave approval for visit as well.

Land Trust proposal passed around.

Proposed items: Amount allocated to FMS - \$94,778.22 an increase from \$78,878.09.

- Art Specialist – \$40,000 Art helps with brain growth and benefits other subjects as well.
- Sub-Incentive – Proposal remains at \$2500 – same as last year - paid as \$60 per 5 days subbed.
- Faculty Meetings Proposal at \$11,500 to pay teachers for attending non-contracted monthly meetings. (50x10x23)

- Staff Meetings Proposal at \$1750 to pay staff for attending non-contracted monthly meetings. (25x5x14)
- Professional Development at \$6600 to offer the most professional, up-to-date curriculum to our instructors. (22x300) (Different teachers encounter different opportunities depending on the year.)
- Digital citizenship stipend of \$3000 to compensate our librarian for time spent outside of contract and for prepping and delivering planned lessons.
- Software – Proposal includes multi-year agreements as the price is ultimately less if we commit to more than one year. Also guarantees we will continue getting it at the current price if the price goes up in the future. \$15,432.00 Software is beneficial as it helps pick out students' weaknesses.
- Hardware - \$13,996.22 Replacement money for smartboards, technology related equipment. Possible Chromebook lab for media center as the chrome books in there no longer update.

Software includes:

- I-ready \$3400
- Kids Discovery \$300 (Social studies)
- Studies Weekly \$1050 (Social studies)
- Lexia – \$1000 Spanish to English – Should help with WIDA test scores.
- Delta Math \$300 (7th and 8th grade math – Mr. Stuart)
- Keyboarding.com \$682.00 (5th grade)
- Vocab \$700 (5th grade)
- Renaissance \$2000
- Gizmos \$4000
- IXL \$2000

Thoughts and concerns

- No Title I – if we are not charging fees, do we qualify for Title I funding for an aide(s)?
- Will increased budget all go into hardware?
- Are we using all of the software that we are paying for? (Examples given – switched to Beanstack from AR and saved a significant amount of money by only purchasing 60 licenses as opposed to 340 licenses. Also put only our ELL and SPED students on Lexia and no longer purchase for all students.
- When you purchase 2 or 3 years of software at a time, you get a significantly better deal on most of them.
- Possibly use funding in the future to hire an additional aide.
- We can make an amendment if needed at a future date.
- Centracom runs programs for disadvantaged students who qualify for other government programs such as SNAP or CHIP. Students on these programs may apply for free internet.

Motion to accept the Trustlands proposal as presented – Jody Lawhorn seconded by Berenice Diaz - unanimous approval. None opposed.

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Community Council. Motion to adjourn at 4:03 by Berenice Diaz – seconded by Autumn Barney.