

MURRAY CITY-SCHOOL COORDINATING COUNCIL
MINUTES

The Murray City School Coordinating Council met on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in the Murray City Center, Conference Room #107, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah.

Board Members Present:

Murray City

Jared Shaver – Chair
Jeff Dredge
Darren Stam
Jim Brass
Krista Dunn

School Board

Marge Tuckett – Vice Chair
Mitzi Huff
Belinda Johnson

Others Present:

Mike Wagstaff
Jan Wells
Janet M. Lopez
Craig Burnett
Dan Barr

Dr. Steve Hirase
Richard Reese
Doug Hill
Tim Tingey
Richard Trantor

Welcome – Approval of Minutes

Mr. Shaver called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Ms. Baker and Mr. Pehrson were excused. Mitzi Huff moved approval of the minutes from the meeting held on January 12, 2011. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stam and approved 7-0.

Recognition of Superintendent Richard Trantor

Due to the announced retirement of the Superintendent, Mr. Shaver thanked Mr. Trantor for his years of service and guidance to the Murray School District. He related his appreciation for his outstanding demeanor and character of leadership. Mr. Brass mentioned his pleasure at serving together; Mr. Dredge and Mr. Stam concurred on all points.

Mr. Trantor responded that he was grateful for the good people he has had the pleasure of working with and appreciates the positive working relationship between the district and City staff, Mayor and Council. He values the unique relationship with the City and pointed out that their reputation for working together is envied. He spoke very highly of his successor, Dr. Steve Hirase, and the district's new Business Manager, Richard Reese.

Dr. Hirase noted his appreciation for the fine people of Murray City. He explained that he has a 24 year history with Murray Schools. Prior to that, he served for Jordan School District and the State Prison. In Murray he was principal of Grant Elementary and 13 years as Assistant Superintendent. He is looking forward to carrying on the legacy begun by Richard Trantor.

Richard Reese joined Murray School District very recently and recognized the wonderful reputation the district enjoys. He explained that he had worked for various school districts for more

than 20 years. As a Sandy resident, he previously worked for Jordan, Morgan and Tooele School Districts as both accountant and in business administration.

Economic Development Update – Tim Tingey

Downtown: Mr. Tingey reported that the Taxing Entity Committee had approved the extension and expansion of the Central Business District Redevelopment area. It was subsequently approved by the RDA, and Murray City Council on April 5, 2011. The new ordinance promotes density, and will be an open, walkable and sustainable community. He had met with a developer and Utah Transit Authority (UTA) earlier that day regarding a possible four story medical office building west of Box Elder. He was excited about the development possibilities going forward, which includes a hotel group with interest in State Street frontage; a possible bank construction project for mixed use; and pursuit of a clinical site by the University of Utah.

Fireclay: Mr. Tingey indicated that Miller Development is about two weeks away from closing on their loan for the residential units. Prior to any construction on that the bridge must be completed and approved. They expect to begin the bridge in May or June. They have an aggressive schedule for Phase I of 400 residential units, which they hope to complete by November. Phase II, residential, and Phase III, commercial space, will follow. Richard Trantor commented that their numbers are off considering the three bedroom units and he would like to discuss that directly with them.

A third development group has shown interest in property on the east side of Fireclay with plans to build apartments. The first floor units can later be converted to commercial when that business develops.

Hamlett currently has all the commercial units under contract. One 11,000 square foot space will house an engineering firm and the Utah Food Industry. Hamlett is still struggling with financial issues, but these are very positive steps.

General Growth: Much excitement exists with Fashion Place Mall. Crate and Barrel will open in November, and two new restaurants are planned. A new Apple Store will also locate at Fashion Place. Dillard's is considering an expansion. It is good that this development is occurring prior to downtown development as it will enhance the situation there, Mr. Tingey related. He confirmed that Fashion Place is getting close to the parking threshold for a parking structure.

The Larry H. Miller investments are moving forward. The Toyota dealership is open and Honda is working toward Planning Commission approval. Murdock Hyundai will fill the vacated Miller property.

At 5:50 p.m. Ms. Dunn joined the meeting in progress.

Mr. Tingey reported that a hotel group has financing in place for the Take 5 property. They will need to go through the Planning Commission to acquire additional space to the east. BMW has approval for expansion of the Mini dealership. Two or three developers have shown some interest in the Galleria/Fun Dome property.

In and Out Burger has decided not to locate in Murray. Their other Utah stores are not doing as well as expected, therefore, they cut one new opening from their plans. Because of the costs involved in the Murray site it was eliminated. The Midvale location will open in the Ft. Union area.

School Resource Officer and Juvenile Update – Craig Burnett

Assistant Police Chief, Craig Burnett, distributed School Resource Officer Case Load information. He commented that the statistics at Hillcrest Junior High show higher numbers because there is a no tolerance policy there and absolutely everything is reported.

Ms. Johnson noted that she sees many students loitering in the Take 5 parking lot. Assistant Chief Burnett stated that police are aware of the situation and monitoring it.

There are traffic problems at Parkside Elementary. With only one way in and out cars become backed up at 5300 South. The problem exists with those wanting to make left turns. Mr. Brass suggested signage to prohibit left turns during that time period. Assistant Chief Burnett will look into that possibility.

Mr. Shaver asked about cyber bullying. Assistant Chief Burnett stated that the school takes care of that and it has not become an issue for police. Spice usage is treated in the same manner as marijuana.

Free Youth Sports Program – Jared Shaver

Mr. Shaver introduced a concept for kids who have no place to go after school. He came in contact with a man in California who runs this type of program using city and school facilities to provide activities for youth who go home to empty houses giving them an alternative activity. Of course, in California, they may be able to use outdoor facilities year round, and that is more difficult here. He asked for input regarding cost, liability, and specific time periods. There could be some grant money available and he realizes costs for heat, electricity and custodial staff would be involved. He would like to explore this idea over the next couple of years. He said the California program was started and is run by Richard Chamberlain who organizes no score basketball for elementary and 3 on 3 or 5 on 5 games for older kids.

Mr. Trantor said that gym space is very competitive; fees could be waived for the City. Mr. Hill stated that the school sports teams practice and have games after school and by 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. city teams take over. There could be some available time. The Park Center charges fees but is free for city teams. Ms. Tuckett mentioned that it could cause a conflict with fee programs organized by the City.

It was mentioned that the Boys and Girls Club fills a similar need for kids, although, Ms. Johnson noted that their prices had increased.

Mr. Trantor recommended the possibility of building two gymnasiums when the new junior high school is constructed. He said the district has plenty of land. Maybe the City could help with the financing; funding would be the problem.

Ms. Dunn added that a program of this nature would require a massive volunteer effort.

School District Report – Richard Trantor

Mr. Trantor reported that the school district has purchased two additional homes on Hillside. Only three more of the original 23 homes remain to be purchased. The district is in negotiation with those three owners. The homes are being rented out and the school district takes care of upkeep.

A request for proposal (RFP) has been issued for engineering work. The district would like to look at the seismic situation of existing schools as they will be doing some rebuilding construction in the future.

Mr. Trantor informed the group that board member Laura Baker has been diagnosed with acute leukemia. She is in very serious condition.

Mr. Stam asked Mr. Trantor to consider parking issues related to the Murray Library when approving new construction plans for Hillcrest Junior High. He stated that the library parking is very limited and there is some talk of expansion in the future. As this is school district land, it needs to be discussed. Mr. Trantor stated that when they begin to work with an architect it will be addressed.

Future Meeting Dates – Jared Shaver

It was the consensus of the group to meet in October and January on the second Tuesday of the month. Mr. Shaver confirmed that October 12, 2011 and January 11, 2012 would be the exact dates. Additionally, he reminded the members that in October election of officers would take place and they would begin their duties in January. That way the City School Coordinating Council would recognize a calendar year as the term of responsibility, alternating between the City and the School leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Janet M. Lopez
City Council Office Administrator