

Maeser Elementary Community Council Mid-Year Report January 2012

In accordance state legislative requirements, Maeser Elementary would like to share the following summary of what has been accomplished by the community council so far this year as well as report how trust land funding is being used.

The community council has spent time and effort trying to make the student pick-up process after school safer as well as cut down the amount of time parents have to wait in line. As a result we have changed from one to two pick-up traffic loops. We also had a county commissioner attend one of the community council meetings to discuss how to make walking routes to school safer.

Areas of focus outlined in the School Land Trust Plan are increasing achievement in both reading and math. Accordingly, funding has been spent in areas designed to assist students who are at risk in either of these subjects. The council is also planning to conduct a survey to determine parental interest in developing an after school tutoring program to help students experiencing difficulties in these subjects.

Many students in need of assistance in developing greater reading fluency are enrolled in an intervention program called *Read Naturally*. Until this year, students have used CD players to listen to various stories and practice reading them a number of times to increase fluency. Students then take a short quiz to make sure they comprehend the stories they read. This year we have purchased a software program using land trust funding which allows for greater efficiency in providing *Read Naturally* interventions to students. A greater number of students are able to access the stories at one time without the necessity of purchasing more CDs and players. The computer program can be installed on as many computers in the school as necessary. Students enrolled in this program are monitored by several instructional aides who work closely with the regular classroom teachers.

To assist students in developing greater reading comprehension, Maeser Elementary uses a computer program called *Accelerated Reader* beginning in grade three. Students check out books labeled as accelerated readers from the library and read them on their own at home. They then take a computerized quiz at school to test their comprehension of the material they have read. The school community council set aside funding this year to help purchase a number of additional quizzes used with this program. The quizzes have now been purchased and installed and are currently being used by the students.

Maeser Elementary hired six instructional aides at the beginning of the school year to assist in interventions. Three of these aides have been funded through the School Land Trust while the others are funded through other programs. Since the school received a little more funding this year that we had anticipated, we were able to hire an additional aide in December through a combination of Land Trust and state intervention funds, bringing the total to seven.

The school trust land plan also provides limited funding to assist in acquiring technology designed to assist teachers in their classroom instruction. To date we have purchased remote

control devices for a number of teachers. These devices allow the teacher to access the computer from any place in the classroom rather than having to sit at the computer. Teachers are able to walk around and check on student work or participation while they are teaching using classroom projection systems linked to the computer.

We are currently completing mid-year testing. Preliminary results indicate that students are making good progress this year. We are anxious to continue this trend and increase achievement for all our students.