

Murray Arts Advisory Board  
Minutes for April 17, 2018

Attendance: Becca Spjute, Carolyn Milne, Deborah Daines, Clark Bullen, Alisa Brousseau  
Lori Edmunds, Katie Lindquist staff

Excused: Lori Steadman, Wendy Richhart  
Guest/Presenters Kim Martinez, Missy Hamilton

1. Minutes for March 20, 2018 have been approved as written.

2. Guests/Presenters

a. Kim Martinez – Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Utah

i. Kim had been asked by Lori E. to prepare some ideas for the visual art residency for the 2018-19 school year. She brought several slides of murals she has done with her students and the community. Missy Hamilton, Director of Elementary Education for Murray School District was a guest speaker as well. The board wanted both Kim and Missy to brainstorm with them on how best to integrate a visual art project into each elementary school. Missy suggested a theme of “We are Murray” for each of the schools. The board liked the idea of each school doing its own mural and then having the murals travel to all the other elementary schools in Murray. Kim and Missy are going to work on the details and send their recommendations back to the board to choose how to best serve the students. The board wanted to touch as many students as possible with this residency, so they decided that if each class did a rendering, then sent it to Kim. Kim’s college students could put the ideas together and create the actual mural. The board decided that an after-school program to paint the original mural would be most effective.

b. Missy Hamilton – Director of Elementary Education

i. The board has been worried for several months about the future of the music residency in Murray’s elementary schools. Several of the board members had children in those schools and we not satisfied with how the program was going. Missy came to board meeting to discuss our concerns, to answer any questions and to help us find solutions. Missy told us the problem was threefold:

- Job retention: There has been a new person in her position each year for the past several years. She assured us that she is here to stay.
- Level of payment: She explained the pay scale difference between a certified and non-certified teacher. With the amount we are funding, and the amount the district is funding, we cannot afford to get the best instructors for the positions.
- The teachers in the elementary schools do not have a prep time like the secondary and high schools. Often, the teachers want to leave the music instructors with the children to go back to there rooms and work on lesson plans, etc. This is concerning as some music specialists do not have the training to deal with difficult children.

Missy explained some of the things that would need to be in place to get a qualified music specialist into each elementary school.

- 7 full time teachers would be \$525,000 per year.
- She could make 1 certified teacher happen but would need more than \$30,000 in grant funds to make it happen.
- She has hired a coach for Grant elementary who is a certified music teacher and to make her the music specialist for the district, she would need to increase the grant funding to \$50,000.

Lori said that if they wanted to give more money to the District 50K, then other programs would have to be cut. This is all contingent on funding from Murray City, Zoo Arts and Parks, and the Utah Department of Arts and Museums.

Alisa asked about how to get all schools to write grants for the Beverly Taylor Sorenson arts education grants. That would be up to the school principal and Missy. Liberty/Viewmont, and Horizon have been funded by them.

Missy is very grateful with the \$30,000 but she would really like the \$48,000 she asked for in her grant application. She explained that Murray does not have the tax base that Granite School District has. She also suggested that we start branding our music program.

Deborah reminded us that the bottom line to all the discussion is money.

The board will decide the funding during their May meeting.

- ii. After school musical the only one left is Liberty.
- iii. Funding update for theater. Lori shared that Director Sorenson presented the plans and drawings to City Council this evening.

The meeting was adjourned, and the next meeting was scheduled for May 15, 2018.