

Bonneville Elementary School

1145 South 1900 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

Principal
Craig Ruesch
January 31, 2006

801-584-2913
Fax: 801-584-2919

Board of Education
Salt Lake City School District
440 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Dear Board of Education,

Bonneville Elementary School expresses our appreciation for the opportunity to explore the possibility of implementing a K-8 program at Bonneville. The discussion has been healthy and has given our staff and patrons a chance to look at possibilities for our school.

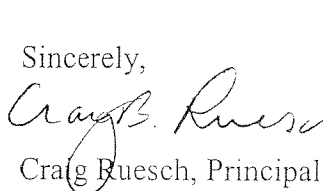
We began distributing information about K-8 schools in October and encouraged patrons to visit the website as well as to read several different articles that were available in the school foyer. Our School Community Council met with board member Laurel Young, K-8 facilitator Gene Klatt and others during our October meeting and discussed the K-8 option and the process we would implement to arrive at a recommendation for the Board. Parents Julie Black and Ingunn Earl, SCC member Kelly Sheffield, teachers Sue Ann Alder, Margey King and Amy Koelliker, and principal Craig Ruesch were approved as members of the K-8 Site Committee.

We continued to send out information to our patrons in November, December and January and held Information Meetings on December 12th and January 12th. Gene Klatt and Pam Pedersen presented the PowerPoint show to the audience in the December meeting and answered questions. The January meeting was conducted by the site committee with four groups of about 20 parents each discussing the advantages and disadvantages of implementing a K-8 model at our school.

Surveys were sent to each home via U.S. Mail the week of January 15th with instructions to send them back to school by January 20th. We received 154 surveys by that Friday and they were scored at the district office that afternoon. Five more surveys were returned on January 23rd and have been added into the results. The site committee met on the 23rd to read and tally the comments and put them into categories for ease of quantifying respondents' rationale for their votes.

The School Community Council met on Wednesday, January 25th to consider the survey data and other issues related to the K-8 option. After considering the information, the SCC voted to unanimously recommend that Bonneville not be considered for K-8 configuration. The rationale is contained in the attached data summary and mirrors that of the patrons who submitted surveys.

Sincerely,


Craig Ruesch, Principal


Tobin Cowley, SCC Chair


Michelle Orgill, SIC Chair

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Bonneville K-8 Recommendation Information

Parent Survey Data- 159 surveys returned (56% of families)

Support Bonneville K-8?	Yes	42 (26%)
	No	110 (70%)
	Missing	7 (4%)

Send children to Bonneville K-8?	Yes	74 (47%)
	No	70 (45%)
	Missing	15 (8%)

Comments

<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Freq.</u>
Academic Improvements	31
Fewer Transitions	36
Safety	14
Parent Involvement	10
Lack of Confidence in M.S.	6

Concerns

Lack of Options/Resources	68
Lack of Space	61
Wide Range of Ages/Mixing Kids	69
Lack of Appropriate Transitions	58
Lack of Information/Specifics	19

Faculty Survey Data- 16 surveys returned (73%)

Support K-8?	Yes	0
	No	15
	Missing	1

Rationale: Lack of Space Need for Transition
 Too Wide Age-Group Span Lack of Options

The issues of greatest concern to our parents, faculty and SCC are those related to: feeling that the wide range of ages is too great and that our students are ready to move on to a different setting after 6th grade; it would be difficult to provide a sufficient range of options for the upper grade students remaining at Bonneville; the facility/property size- more space to house the 7th and 8th grade program can not realistically be built on our site without significantly impacting other school programs.

The SCC expressed concern that decisions had to be made without having a better understanding of what the ramifications of the decision may be and how they will impact Bonneville, the middle schools and the district. We are very interested to see how a K-8 school does should the Board decide to convert one or more schools to a K-8 model and whether the Board will entertain discussion of the possibility a making the middle schools 6th-8th or 7th-9th in the future. There was a lot of support expressed in favor of three-year middle schools. The process also helped us recognize the challenge to develop programs and outreach efforts to attract more students to Bonneville.