2014-15 LAND Trust Plan Final Report

Green River High Schools 2014-15 LAND Trust Plan took several unexpected turns during the year. First in 2013 the legislature appropriated funds for grants related to STEM education. As part of the STEM grant Green River High was provided with the ST Math program. This program provides individualized computer based math instruction and remediation. ST Math proved to be quite successful and it met many of the needs that Renaissance was filling. Renaissance was also trying to align all schools within Emery District which used their programs so that the licenses would go from September to September. In this change Renaissance was going to charge Green River an entire year license to go from March to September. With CORE testing Renaissance is not used very much in April and May and would not be used during the months of June, July and August making paying for a license for this time frame impractical. Green River High also had the option of canceling its license with Renaissance until September then renewing the license at that time. The contract with Renaissance ended in March and it was decided by the Community Council not to renew the Renaissance license. The Community Council budgeted $3600 for the Renaissance site license leaving these funds available for other uses.

Second the $2000 set aside for academic field trips was not entirely used since those expenses were covered almost entirely by the Emery County School District transportation department. During the 2014-15 year we took four academic field trips. The first was to Goblin Valley and also involved hiking in two slot canyons, Little Wild Horse and Bell canyons, which are adjacent to Goblin Valley State Park. The second field trip was to the Prehistoric Dinosaur Museum in Price. After touring the museum students were taken bowling. Bowling is part of the physical education curriculum and because the closest place to bowl is 60 miles from Green River only one third of our students had been bowling before. The third field trip was to the Emery County Courthouse and the Sheriff’s Office. After touring those facilities students were taken to the swimming pool at Emery High. The final field trip was to Lagoon where students were exposed to science principles related to force and motion. The purpose behind the field trips was academic as well as to motivate students to improve their citizenship. Students receiving N’s or U’s in Citizenship or an F grade were not permitted to go on the field trips. The Community Council was concerned with the number of students failing classes and getting N’s and U’s in citizenship. Past data for Green River High shows that students who get N’s and U’s in citizenship also get D’s and F’s academically. Students were informed of these stipulations at the beginning of the year and were reminded of them throughout the year. Field trip destinations for each term were identified by surveying students. There was a marked improvement in citizenship during 1st and 4th terms, while 2nd and 3rd term for the two years were very similar. Please refer to the table at the end of this report. In the end $825.00 was used for field trip expenses.

Third the $2000 in funds set aside for the Write-to-Learn training were not used. Basic training regarding Write-to-Learn was conducted during staff meetings so LAND Trust funds were not required to compensate teachers for the training time and to pay for materials. This year Green River hired 4 new teachers, three of which are on an ARL. With 4 new first year teachers out of our staff of 9 teachers it was impractical to do much of the Write-to-Learn training which allowed us to do the trainings during faculty meetings. It was also noted that the teachers returning were already using Write-to-Learn principles in their classes.

As a final note we did not use the full $1000 set aside for apps for the iPad’s. The iPads were used extensively for the ST Math program during the year and most other apps that were used were free. The only app purchased using LAND Trust funds was “Garage Band” which had a price tag of approximately $75.

In February several Community Council members were contacted by teachers who requested the school purchase Chromebooks to help accommodate writing in their classes. Their rational was that iPads do not work well for writing and class conflicts regarding the use of the computer lab hinders some Language Arts, Science and Social Studies classes from doing writing projects. Currently the Language Arts and Social Studies departments use Google Classroom for writing and research projects making Chromebooks the logical choice. It was also pointed out that the iPads were being monopolized by the math classes to do ST Math.

Given the above circumstances on March 30th the Community Council voted to amend the LAND Trust Plan to use available LAND Trust funds for the purchase of Chromebooks. The Chromebooks were to be used for writing and research related to Language Arts, and Social Studies. The Community Councils vote was: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 absent. On April 8, 2015 the amended plan was submitted to and approved by the Emery County School Board. According to the revised plan Green River High Purchased 24 Chromebooks. Emery School District matched our expenditure and purchased an additional 24 Chromebooks for Green River High. The cost to Green River High Trust LANDS was $8000.00. An additional $289.00 of Trust Lands funds were used to purchase cabinets and power strips for housing and charging the Chromebooks.

Green River High Schools Goals for School Improvement Plan are: Increase student performance in Mathematics on SAGE state testing.  Improve student math reasoning and problem solving skills. Prepare students for SAGE testing by providing them with increased writing opportunities and challenges across the curriculum.  Have teachers use writing in their classroom as a teaching tool.  Have student’s use short writing on a regular basis. Focus on effective classroom management principles and developing common procedures and policies in all content areas, such areas as writing standards, heading of papers, entering and exiting classrooms, language, etc.  Increase student participation in academic programs such as Sterling Scholars, Quiz Bowl and Science fairs.  The purchase of Chromebooks is compatible with these goals. 48 Chromebooks were purchased and are being used to promote writing skills. Teacher training regarding the use of Chromebooks was conducted by SESC for the Language Arts and Social Studies teachers that are using the Chromebooks.

The 2014 SAGE test results showed student improvement as compared with the 2013 CORE tests and as a result Green River High received a B on the state Report Card. The majority of our students are still below proficient but improvement was significant enough to raise our grade from a C to a B. Because of the transition in state testing it is difficult to understand the grading so we ask you to visit the SAGE testing link, http://www.schools.utah.gov/SAGE/, on the USOE website for an explanation of the results.

During the 2014-15 school year classroom management principles were emphasized and common procedures for writing standards and the heading of papers were established. Improvement in student language and the way students enter and leave classrooms was also emphasized. Green River High also increased attention to and interest in academics by participating in both JV and Varsity Quiz Bowl and holding a Science Fair for all 7th and 8th grade students.

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|  | **2013-14** | **2014-15** |
| **1st Term F** | 23 | 8 |
| **1st Term N,U** | 25 | 14 |
|  |  |  |
| **2nd Term F** | 17 | 16 |
| **2nd Term N,U** | 12 | 14 |
|  |  |  |
| **3rd Term F** | 11 | 16 |
|  | 37 | 31 |
|  |  |  |
| **4th Term F** | 13 | 12 |
| **4th Term N,U** | 44 | 25 |

**Totals 182 136** A decrease of 25% in the number of N’s, U’s and F’s given.