

5th Grade Music Program Update

July 16, 2018

Principal/Staff Survey

- Since the last board meeting I sent out a list of questions to get input from both the elementary principals and the music staff. I received feedback from all our elementary principals indicating their support for the program, how it would fit into their schedule, where it would be held and that most 5th grade teachers were also in support of the program.
- The only response I received from music department staff was from Brett Barker indicating that they do not have any spare music instruments and that students would have to rent their instruments from local music stores, which could limit the number of students participating.

Correspondence and Meeting

- I, the music teachers, and elementary principals received an email from Terry Merrill indicating that he and Bryan McKinney were unable to figure out how to provide enough release time in their building schedule for Jayna Johnson to go to the elementary schools half-time for orchestra. He also suggested we work on promoting the program during the 2018-19 school year and begin it in the fall of 2019.
- I also met with Jeff Collier and he indicated that even before receiving the email from Mr. Merrill he was thinking it might be better to wait a year and get the word out better. We discussed the possibility of having a pilot music program with Mr. Barker in just two elementary schools if there were students interested to help work out the bugs before this were unfolded district-wide the following year.

Recommendation

Based on the above information I am recommending that the Board delay the approval of the district-wide 5th Grade Music Program until a future date when more details have been ironed out. However, if the administrators at Minico and one or two elementary schools want to share Mr. Barker's time that would be something they could pilot this school year.