

Jefferson General PTA Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2019

Attendees: Becca Harpster, Kelly Perry, Jessica Testani, Ginger Malcom, Kerri Timmerwilke, Michelle Kinney, Geoff Gaebel, Ioana Fernandez, Phil Fernandez

Call to order: 8:31

Becca Harpster welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance - we did the pledge right before the meeting with the students.

Approval of the Minutes: Kelly Perry made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting. Michelle Kinney seconded. All voted in favor. The minutes of the February 19th meeting were approved.

President's report: Becca Harpster. We are working to spend some of the funds raised, but the main one and the largest dollar value is the indoor recess kits. We are putting those lists together now by grade to determine costs. Mrs. Weber is looking to bring it to the May 14 th School Board meeting for approval, so our request needs to be submitted by April 30th so hopefully we will have lists by the April 16th PTA meeting. Please let us know if you have any ideas. Mrs. Weber is going to get emails out to the teachers for input. She then suspended her report and moved to the Teacher's report because 4th grade teachers came in.

Teachers Report - Mrs. Hayes: The State Reports are changing this year. This year they are creating websites with all of the information normally contained in the written report but the websites will include graphics. All of the information will still be there but they can be more creative. It can be published in different ways - it can be live, or in the district or to people you send the link to. At state report night you can use the QR code to access it. Trifolds and displays are still going to be there. The kids are really excited about this, they are helping each other. They are still making the State Tshirts. Mrs. Hayes gave some receipts to Kelly Perry for the T-shirts and this is within the budget. Passion projects: the 4th grade doesn't need any money, the 2nd grade was more hands on. They would like to make it long term and sustainable. Jefferson staff has been reaching out to other teachers have been they've been reaching out to see how this works in their classrooms. Google has genius hours for their employees. Two classes have been working on this in the classroom - it is ungraded. The kids selected a topic and then answered questions - what do they want to learn, how are they going to do it and how are they going to share. They did shark tank type presentations. Mrs. Georganas said they were nervous but they did a great job. They research an hour a week. Hopefully finishing research before break and will be sharing before the end of the year. They have been busy asking questions. Kelly Perry asked is this a pilot and eventually it will be the entire school? Mrs. Georganas - kind of, they wanted to start small and work through some problems and are contacting other teachers who do this in other buildings and hopefully it will expand. They are using a lot of different skills to do the work. Mrs. Georganas said it is really neat to see how excited they are. Mrs. Hayes another thing we want to bring up is how expensive busses are - we didn't do a program at the Arboretum because it was over \$20 a student just to get there. They don't want to not go to because of the

cost but they also don't want to leave people out. They choose the low number of parent volunteers because of the costs. Kelly Perry said the PTA does try to cover things for kids with free/reduced lunch. This year the 4th grade is trying to Shedd again - they are doing a class, getting more academics but in the future could the PTA help with bussing? Ioana Fernandez - some PTAs fund field trips. Mr. Gaebel if teachers want more parents for supervision it seems like we can at least support that. Becca Harpster it seems like there should be something we can do to help or subsidize. Becca Harpster asked if there is a cost they want per child. Kelly Perry we have a support of Ed. line that we could pull from. That is what we normally pay for any big donations from. The Budget is an estimate, and so we can change things if we needed. Mrs. Weber asked a question about equity. Becca - the Board asked the PTA Council to start thinking about equity. Mrs. Weber said to be cautious with that because she doesn't know what it would like. There is a push not to have curriculum driven items funded by the PTA's. Mrs. Weber they are supposed to be tied to the curriculum but we should keep talking. Right now there is not equity because schools are doing different things now. Jessica Testani maybe look into how the costs break down we can look at it per child or pay for educational program or just bussing.

Becca Harpster then welcomed Mrs. Discipio the Principal of Bryan Middle School to the meeting. Mrs. Discipio - Thank you for waiting for me. She had a parent meeting run long. Time is flying by this year. She really just wants us to know her as the transition to middle school begins. All of the schools have similar transition plans. May 14 will be the parent night at Bryan, parents will see the building, buy gym uniforms, PTA will be there and you will meet staff. Wed. May 15th, the kids will come for a visit - they meet some staff, get a tour, meet some kids and come back - it's about 2 hours. Thursday August 8th is the jump start day - you will have their schedule, go to locker, supplies, they can walk the building and pictures will be taken. If you miss that day that can come on other days. Kids with IEPs and 504s will have an organized visit if needed too. Ellen Dunn will be the counselor for next years 6th graders. We have a strong support team and it's a big transition but they do a really good job of taking care of them - explaining the routine and helping with organizing. Mrs. Weber added that the 5th grade teachers meet with the Bryan staff as well. Mrs. Discipio mentioned that the Bryan Treasure Hunt is coming up if anyone wanted to participate in a fun night that supports the Bryan PTA. The PTA looks a little different at Middle School but they plan things for all of the grades. A questions was asked about technology and was told Power school is used for grades, classes etc. and that kids are One to One on Chromebooks too. It normally starts a few days into school, but there is an option to take them home. There is a use agreement that parents need to sign. If you are interested in PLTW summer program you should sign up soon.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Weber. Erin's Law presentations are going on today, some have already been done, some will be done in the next few days. We do have IL Assessment for Readiness after break (formerly PAARC) grades 3-5, 3 maths and 2 language arts. A little shorter in time. 1 test per day. All on Chromebooks. We are not a pilot school this year so it's a little less than last year. If you have a 5th grader, their results will come from the Middle Schools in the fall. Thank you for the teachers' breakfast. This reporting period had less comments so she thinks it went smoother. Becca Harpster - just noticed that they came out after the time that they said. Mrs. Weber that release time is just an estimate and they try to get it out at around that time. Mrs. Weber can't control when it's sent or when it gets to parent. The Board has to approve the final day of school still, she is not sure it will be at today's meeting or in April. Once she knows

she will let us know. There is a late start tomorrow, and the week after break and more. Spring Celebration of Learning coming up on April 25th. 4th Grade will start earlier due to the State Reports. T 2nd grade will have MAP testing in the spring and F&P assessments will happen in the spring, probably in May too. They will be assessed at instruction and independent level. Comprehension within the test and beyond the text, as well as accuracy. Trying to improve communication between classroom and home. Mrs. Weber is a co teacher on the see saw accounts too so she can see what students are doing as well. Volunteer Breakfast is Friday May 17th.

Kerri questioned about having someone talk about internet safety and get information to parents so we can see what parameters they discuss so we can be aligned with that too.

Membership - Regina not present. no report

Treasurer's Report. Kelly Perry we started the month with \$14,767.79 in combined accounts. There were receipts of \$18063.64. disbursements \$7629.74. as of this morning our accounts totalled \$25,201.69. There may still be more coming in because of how the credit card processing works. In April she should know more about what is coming but two adjustments. First to increase the Tiger Bucks expense purchase by 450.00 and establish a budget for Mathletes of \$100, which covers the copying and \$39 for the contest test in April. Ioana Fernandez motioned to approve as stated. Kerri Timmerwilke seconded. All voted in favor. Those motions approved. Please tell room parents to submit their receipts. We use the receipts to determine budgets for the next year.

Discussion over room parents buying for birthdays. There are always parents that don't do what you are asking. We should not add to hospitality. If we want it to be consistent there should be a fund that it is explained at the beginning at the year. Becca Harpster asked Kerri Timmerwilke to talk to the Room Parent coordinator and make sure the room parents understand what can be done and make sure if the guidelines need to be changed they are revised and are uniform. We will try to and streamline and be consistent across the grades and classes.

Committees Report. Kerri Timmerwilke. The roller skating party is coming up soon on March 31 from 4-6 at the Roller Rink. Admission free, rental \$4. Mrs. Weber added there this is a Jefferson Talent Show this year too. Information is going out now but there will be tryouts, practice etc. One more thing - Social Committee will be having a Kendra Scott event on April 18th. That is the last Social Committee event. Lunch room/playground needs volunteers. There is a need to review the rules etc. Becca Recognized the Hospitality Committee and invited people to see what they do.

Programs Report. Kanako Shuaipaj. Assembly April 11th. The assembly is focused on a big glove that the kids will be able to go into. The kids will go with their buddies. 2 classes will go in at time, inside the globe.

Ways and Means - Ioana Fernandez. 5th grade art orders close on Wednesday. Reminders went out to people who still need to pay. Trolley is sold out with wait list, people are asking. Halloween is sold out. The Book Club is sold out, Derby is almost sold out. Moms and Dance Parties are still getting interest. People always drop out of the trolley too, so there is normally

alot of movement off the waitlist. If the things aren't paid by April 15th - I would like to move to the waitlist then. Idea for pre/post parties that people can pay for.

Recording Secretary. Jessica Testani. No report.

Corresponding Secretary - Jen D'Alessandro. She wants to ask for submissions on Thursdays at 10 pm. Next one will come out after Spring Break so please get her the info.

Webmaster Report - Michelle Kinney. The new website is going live April 1st. It may take some time, if you see anything that looks weird or doesn't work please let her know. Kerri asked if we can add volunteer opportunities to the website. Ioana brought up Member Hub. Discussion over what works best. No other schools are using member Hub for directory because it's not as user friendly currently. one school did use member hub for their school store, they paid through it, so it's just a matter of figure out what functionality works best for us. Geoff Gaebel - brought up using the district's systems. We discussed the reasons we went to that but Jessica Testani said it was her understanding that the decision to use the District's system could change, the board when we made the switch to using the system thought it was the best choice at that time.

New Business:

Becca Harpster asked if there were any additional questions or other new business. Nothing was raised.

Kerri Timmerwilke made a motion to adjourn, Jessica Testani seconded. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is Tuesday April 16 at 8:30 am, following a coffee with Mrs. Weber. in the Jefferson Multi-purpose room.