

Jefferson General PTA Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2018

Attendees: Becca Harpster, Jessica Testani, Regina Gaebel, Kelly Perry, Kanako Shuaipaj, Ioana Fernandez, Phil Fernandez, Megan Corrigan Alison Benson, Jill Ternery, Yolo Adams, Cathy Dykes and Principal Leslie Webber.

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Minutes - Ioana Fernandez made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2018 meeting. Regina Gaebel seconded the motion. All voted in favor, the minutes were approved.

Principal's Report:

COGAT testing will start soon for 5th and 2nd graders, it is used to screen for REACH. REACH begins in 3rd grade. 5th graders are evaluated again for placement in middle school. COGAT will be on computer this year, teachers will be communicating with their classes about specific times, but there 2 sessions 45 minutes each.

Kindergarten and new families you should have received an email to create an account for conferences. Please contact office if there are problems. The window for signing up online is November 5th at 6 am to November 9th until midnight. Even if you are traveling please schedule a phone conference during that time, the teachers are here at that time and it should be used. The District is looking at changing conference days but this year conferences are the 19th and 20th. Report Cards will be emailed on the 16th. Please look at report cards first to prepare. Kids still have school on Monday. Kindergarten families will sign up using sign up genius because the numbers allowed on Power PTC don't work but everyone will be setting up the account. Mrs. K can't fit all of her students in the number of spots the system allows.

Halloween parade is at 8:30 on the 31st, Mrs. Weber put route in her email and the teachers will be doing something in the gym. No weapons, masks etc. Please try to keep dogs out of the path.

Two Teacher tables for Trivia Night. The teachers are excited - there is a floor challenge.

There will be another Standards Based Reporting talk at the November PTA meeting and again the Monday at about 4 before conferences start and maybe midday on Tuesday. There might be more questions once people see the report cards. Mrs. Dykes asked if parents are excited about the report cards, Mrs. Weber there hasn't been a lot of fee back yet but believes it is helpful for parents to hear this information several times. The pilot schools have good feedback.

Jefferson does a school improvement plan every year, based on District goals. The School leadership team is compromised of teachers, specialists, instructional coach and principal. This is just a continual plan to stay aligned with District goals: Accelerate learning for all students. College Career and Life Ready. They focus on 6 C's and using rigor and relevance to achieve

competency in them. The plan is on the website. In the summer/early fall the SLT met to review data, align goals and begin developing the plan, the plan is then shared with staff, get feedback, in the fall it is shared with Board and parents, in the winter/spring the team meets to review data, and then add and adjust the plan. In the summer, they will review data and plan for the next year.

Last year there were 3 goals: math, literacy and culture goals. Our team wants to continue growth. Last year the School culture goal with to develop Professional learning community (PLC) . Last year was what was the PLC, what did it look like, the agenda for the future, the norms. This year they want to continue this goal but they are adding communication. Reviewing last year, they saw a need to have difficult conversations to move instruction forward. So in moving forward, they need to foster those conversations. There will be more supportive conversations, all teachers will use formative assessments to guide instruction across grade levels and all teachers will use PLC format to analyze data and develop lessons that differentiate instruction.

This year at late arrivals - they have been working on presenting data, and seeing how you look at it and use it to move forward with instructional practices.

The second goal is to Responsive Teaching Practice. How will teachers will respond to data in literacy and math. Continuing to use Readers' workshop, 60-90 minutes of literacy. Teacher will model a skill and then the kids will work independently to develop skills and small group work. They are using CC Pensive that allows teachers to take anecdotal notes and enables quicker planning. Using quick data to adjust teaching to their needs. We are looking at the math workshop models. There are several teachers that are looking at D205 University to move to the math workshop model. The kids will have a mini lesson with the skill, the kids will break off, some will do work in workbook, some will do zearn, others will play math games. The teacher assesses as the kids go, so those that are ready to move on, can and those that need more help get it. We are hoping to have everyone move to the math workshop model. This is easier because they (teachers and students) are secure in the workshop model.

Any Questions?

Phil Fernandez - what subjects lost time? Science and Social Studies. They are encouraging teachers to embed social studies into the literacy. Science is harder because they are evaluating the science curriculum.

Phil - does it increase in every grade? Yes Math is 75 minutes across the grades. Mrs. Weber - the teachers needed more time to meet the teaching goals and to give the extra support.

Cathy Dykes - Does support staff help? 30 minutes acceleration where the reading specialists, instruction coach does help. Math is harder, mostly the resource teachers are pushing in and there is some co-teaching. There is no math specialist that can help. No real plan to provide math specialists. Trying to increase time, and give more resources. There is no math interventionist either. Mrs. Weber does not think they are looking to add a math specialist or interventionists. They are hoping to reach Tier 2 learning through the workshop model to give additional

supports. It is when those gaps are not closed that they would maybe look to that level of support.

Phil - When will the plan be on the website? Mrs. Weber said she would take care of it.

Question about how to adapt curriculum to meet the kids who need Tier 3 instruction. In literacy - it is easier because you can use different texts. In math, the teachers may need to create supports but not using a different grade level. It's not an alternate curriculum.

Kelly Perry - How is it beneficial for teachers to be doing this and not differentiate in elementary. Mrs. Weber - best practices is to have the teacher doing it because she knows the kids. Transition time is often lost time. Also the teacher can give more time because the kids are with her. It is a more efficient use of the school day and enables the teacher to monitor it more. In general we are trying to keep everyone in the classroom as much as possible.

Becca Harpster - For all students? Mrs. Weber - Yes in the workshops. Students will meet with teachers differently because it will depend on what skills they need help with and they meet with the teacher and then rotate to different activities.

Becca Harpster - What are the best practices for students regarding no homework? What are the practices for when a child is struggling? Mrs. Weber - It is going to depend on the teacher how are they doing it. Not all problems need to be done, sometimes they are given as options. But talk to your teachers, they will do it differently but no we don't want daily homework.

Mrs. Weber please contact me if you have any questions.

Teacher's Report. - No report.

Board Report -

Presidents: Becca Harpster - There's been a lot going on. Thank you for everything that has been done and for all the hard work that goes into. Upcoming - D205 Foundation has a number of events: the obstacle course race this weekend and a Harlem Wizards game. Mrs. Weber and 2 other Jefferson teachers and some former Jefferson teachers will be there as well. In Tiger Beat there were meetings sponsored by PTA Council and the D205 Foundation. Mrs. Weber added that Mrs. Guerino added some signage with more information about the Referendum.

Committees Report: Becca read for Kerri Timmerwilke. She has been trying to get the volunteers organized. The Feast is November 15th. If you signed up on the paper form, you should have received an email about it. It will be opened up to other parents after the initial volunteers have a chance to sign up.

Membership - Regina Gaebel: Not much to report. Need to get a few names added. Kelly has added a few. Payment to the state was 209 in membership. There are more spouses (2 family votes this year) as members. It is not too late to join. Probably need to close the directory soon. Ioana Fernandez asked why do we close access? Becca Harpster said it is the final push to get

people to join. Jessica Testani added that its the only thing we say that you don't get if you don't join. Also still using myschool anywhere as the directory not member hub.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Perry - we started at \$14,629.66. Disbursements of 4432.82. current total 14,534.37 combined balances of checking and savings.

The Feast is our big expense coming up and teacher reimbursements. May need to be a little tighter until the Carnival. Double budgeted for gifts so Kelly would like to decrease the hospitality line item from \$450 to \$275 and add a line item for trivia night \$1000 for expenses 2000 for revenue. Becca Harpster - motioned to amend the budget to reduce the hospitality line to \$275 and add a line item for Trivia Night of \$1000. Regina Gaebel seconded. All voted in favor. The motion to amend the budget as described passed.

Programs - Kanako Shuaipaj. There is an Anti Bullying assembly scheduled on Oct. 29th. Mrs. Cusack set it up for Red Ribbon Week.

Ways and Means Report - Ioana Fernandez. This year the first Jefferson trivia night will be Nov. 2, at Waterford Banquet. They are donating most of the rent. She said they are hoping for 200 people to attend. There will be prizes, cash bar and silence auction. Phil Fernandez added there are 3 tables filled. 2 are teacher tables. The committee is encouraging people to get entire table, \$250 for the table or \$30 per person. Anyone can come, Jefferson families and their friends. A total of 20 tables are available, and the event will break even when 4 tables are sold. It should be a fun night. There will be food available from the adjacent restaurant or the snack bar. Silent Auction of maybe 10-15 items. A good mix of things - Victory Meat and Seafood is donating a dinner, Orthodontics and still working on other items. Whaddya Know ? is running the trivia. Email from Cars for Kids - Chrysler program. They donate \$10 for all of test drives that night. There was a brief discussion and Mr. Fernandez asked everyone to think about it and let him know. Thank you to those that participated in Eat and earns at Portillos and Meatheads. Portillos was \$169. Mrs. Fernandez added that Waterford Banquets is very supportive of the district and the D205 foundation too.

Recording Secretary - Jessica Testani reported that the PTA received Thank you letters from Mrs. Dobric and Ms. Lindsay's entire class about the book fair and books that were purchased for the classrooms.

Corresponding Secretary Report - Just a reminder to please send Tiger Beat entries to Jen D'Alessandro by Thursday nights.

Webmaster - Michelle Kinney said she is updating the website but to please let her know if you find something that needs to be updated or fixed.

New Business - no new business

The next PTA meeting is Tuesday, November 13th at 8:30 am in the MPR. Kelly Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil Fernandez seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned.