

Jefferson General PTA Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018

Attendees: Becca Harpster, Kelly Perry, Kerri Timmerwilke, Michelle Kinney, Ioana Fernandez, Phil Fernandez, Mike Reardon, Jessica Testani, Patty Klingbiel Connell, Michelle Biltimier, Tania Di Fatta, Yolo Adams and Principal Leslie Weber

Call to order 8:33 am

Thank you for coming. We just did the pledge with the kids so we are going to start with the approval of minutes from October meeting.

Approval of the Minutes: Kelly Perry made a motion to approve the minutes. Michelle Kinney seconded. All in favor. The minutes of the October 16th meeting were approved.

Mrs. Weber said that she received a message from the D205 foundation member, Amy Belich, who was going to attend today's meeting. Unfortunately, her child is sick and she was trying to find another member to come since she was unable to attend. Becca Harpster said that since this was last minute and no one could come we will try and reschedule for another meeting. She continued on to say that there is a Currito fundraiser today to support the D205 Foundation, there is not form to bring in, you just put your receipt in the box. Mrs. Weber explained that the D205 foundation gives out grants for teachers and librarians, thousands of dollars in funding to support different projects. The Foundation tries to provide support for what teachers need to support students - sometimes it is building-wide and sometimes it is classroom based. Overall, the Foundation tries to at least partially fund all projects submitted in the year but there are so many projects in the different buildings. Jefferson is trying to do some grant writing together to help teachers work through that process.

Principal's report. Mrs. Weber - thanked the parents for attending the Halloween parade. She knows there was a hubub on social media about other buildings not being allowed to have a parade. She explained that it's not that schools can't have parades, it is how Jefferson has chosen to use the time the District permits for parties and picnics etc. It is our tradition and it's within the guidelines of what is allowed. The Thanksgiving Feast is Thursday. Thanks to the volunteers. If you are not signed up to volunteer, please do not show up. If you are a volunteer and haven't given an ID yet, please come a little early because you will need to show your ID. The kids will go outside after eating too. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring. Conference sign up is closed online. If you did not sign up online, please call the office. The office has the schedules and will email the teachers and update the schedules. Again if you are out of town, please try and do a phone conference during the designated time. The Report Cards will be in power school, you will need to access it. If you haven't created that account, you need to in order to access it. There will be a panel on the left of power school and it will say report card and it will access all of the report cards for your different students. Even Kindergarten should have the powerschool accounts even though they used sign up genius for conferences. They will be available around 3 pm on Friday. Please look them over before you meet with teachers.

Mrs. Weber then continued on to explain Standards Based Reporting. We are no longer using A, B, C, D etc. it is now a 1, 2, 3, 4 system. 3 is proficient, your child has mastered the standard. Next Monday and Tuesday, Mrs. Weber will be giving information again regarding Standards Based Reporting. There was a discussion of examples of when a student might not meet a grade level standard but are meeting different skills at grade level but are not yet proficient at all of the skills. That can be confusing and it is different then what it has been done in the past. The students were assessed through F&P in the fall but there won't be another assessment until January, but they have been monitoring progress through the fall. The District may tweak some of these things going forward - why report in November but not assess level again until January. It will look different and parents might have questions. Mrs. Weber used the Bike example - 1 is a training wheels and being helped. 2 is starting to do independently - there is guidance and support, 3 they can do it independently, no more parents holding on to the bike and 4 is doing wheelies - they are more than proficient, there are opportunities to excel. It is easier to get the 4 in LA than Math but there most likely won't be a lot of 4's in the reporting tool and that's ok. No plusses on classwork but they may use them in the reporting tool to show growth. Also the later grades are weighted more because we want to use the most recent assessments to show where the kids actually are.

Mrs. Adams- in Math will it be divided. Yes, Mrs. Weber said there are different standards, not just one grade.

If things are blocked out, that standard has not been taught yet. Until you see the report card it's hard to really think about how it will work.

Standards will change from semester to semester, so things will be added. Mrs. Weber also said that some classes may be working on standards that they are not listed on the report yet, but may be the next period.

Patty Klingbiel - Does a 4 mean they are at a higher grade level. Mrs. Weber - not necessarily. It may mean that they can go more in depth in a given area. They are expanding on the standard within the grade level.

Mr. Reardon - is there an averaging? Mrs. Weber - no. The standard is based on the assessment, the sub parts will be based on the most recent work. Reading is the only 1 where the grade level skill might have subparts that are different.

Mr. Reardon - how does this transfer outside of the district? Mrs. Weber - standard based reporting is based on the Common Core standards. The reporting piece of it is different, places are shifting to this to more clearly see where the kids are. Right now in 205, it's in elementary school. The current 6th graders will not see this. It will move to the Middle School next year with our 5th graders. At some point this will need to be aligned in High School.

This is a shift of mindset. Our districts is looking to other districts - what has worked and what hasn't. We aren't the only ones and the trend is toward this.

Patty Klingbiel - what is New Trier doing? Mrs. Weber doesn't know.

Mrs. Weber again said to ask if you have questions, most likely you will have questions but it should make more sense once you see the reporting tool. She thinks there is a link on the school website with a blank reporting tool. The district has a steering committee and it will be a continuing process.

COGATs in October, the results will be emailed home in December.

Teachers' Report - no rep present because they are teaching. Teachers participated at the Wizards game, they are thankful for the support they get from the PTA.

President's report: Becca Harpster - The PTA did vote to support Brain Pop and Brain Pop jr this year. The District reevaluated technology and chose not to use this but teachers have asked to bring it back. So several schools reached out to PTAs to support. Once we get a new license, the teachers will send out the access code. If the District continues it, it will follow this year license.

Discussion over technology and maybe evaluating websites to help parents know what to use. Zearn is more aligned with Eureka. IXL has standards but doesn't align as well. Discussion over chromebooks. Looking at tools to teach strategies or give support to students. Professional learning to teach math more like the workshop we use in reading.

Back to President report - The State of Illinois issued its School Report Cards. Dr. Moyer's blog links to tools to help you understand what is behind the report cards. The criteria has changed and it is no longer a 1-10 scale, all of our schools were rated commendable. Mrs. Weber said now we are looking at what the subgroups are and how to meet their needs. The 5 essentials survey also has a lot to do with that so please take the 5 essentials survey during conferences. This helps with structural decisions to see where are we succeeding, and where we need to work.

Membership - nothing to report.

Treasurer's report. Started after Oct. 16th meeting 14,534.37 in account. There are receipts of \$6,474.21 mostly from trivia night and school supplies. The amount from school supplies has grown, not sure if it's a larger percentage or more are buying it. At some point we will be looking for someone to take over that committee. Disbursements of \$4064.45. The ending balance is \$16,944.13. The last big expense pre carnival is the feast. Kelly Perry proposed amending the budget to reflect \$300 of revenue and \$300 of expense for social committee and create a line item - hospitality - to pay for coffee etc at pta events and to show silent auction revenue - \$2150 for trivia night and silent auction expense - \$3720.

Profit of \$1720, is for auction items but we have to pay for them in full and retain that amount as profit.

Ioana Fernandez motioned to amend the budget as presented. Seconded by Patty Klingbiel. All in favor, the amendments passed.

Committee's Report - Kerri Timmerwilke. Feast and Giving Tree coming up. Giving Tree, we reached out to a local church and will be asking students to donate gift cards. We will give to the Church and they will give to the family, we also use some for our families that need support. This is the same way we did the Giving Tree last year after UCCC stopped sponsoring families. We will find out what types of Gift Cards are needed and get that information out to families.

Question about the Giving Tree Assembly and how the gift cards are collected. There are 2 performances: K-2, 3-5 and there will be a big present and the kids will slide the gift cards in and then they sing. Parents come to watch. It is Dec 11th.

There are some current volunteer opportunities -Junior Achievement - grade level volunteers are needed to teach the prepared lessons. Lunch/Playground volunteers as well. Family Math Night in January too.

Becca Harpster - Gina Padgett is organizing a math club, starting with 1st and 2nd graders, lunch time Feb-April. There will be a contest and the top 6 scores will compete nationally against other participating schools. There will be a small fee but we are not sure of that yet. If you are interested please talk to Gina Padgett. It's not instruction, it's working problems. It is a challenging, so it's open to all but we don't want kids frustrated about it.

Still Need a Summer Rec. Open House Chair for Jefferson. There are meetings and then you go to the Open House where they have all sorts of summer activity info available. If you are interested or know anyone who is, please talk to Kerri.

Programs - working on the next assembly

Ways and Means - Ioana Fernandez: thank you to everyone who went to Trivia Night. Start working on the Carnival soon. The 1st floor teachers beat the 2nd floor teachers table at trivia night, so now the 2nd floor teachers need to cover 30 minutes of a 1st floor class.

Recording Secretary - No report.

Corresponding Secretary - Will include 5 essentials in Tiger Beat. Nothing Additional, please send info on Thursdays.

Webmaster Report - if you have anything for Website just let her know.

New Business -

We changed the times of February and March meetings because the March meeting conflicted with the District Orchestra festival. February will now be a night meeting and March will be in the morning. Dr. Moyer is coming to January meeting.

Any other New Business -

Kelly Perry - Square one art is a big fundraiser so please spread the word. and they deliver in time for the holidays. We make approx. \$3000 per year.

Question - do you know if we got an author from book fair? Becca will check with chairs and see if they have heard anything.

Question - Kerri Timmerwilke - Can you talk about what a soft lock down is?

Mrs. Weber - if any student/staff member is in need. The hallways are immediately cleared and they announce a soft lockdown. Students in class/teaching continues. The focus is on clearing hallways, calling medical help etc. There was one in the lunch room - they used alternative doors to get kids out and used alternative doors to get back in. Protects their privacy and helps clear access for emergency responders. Kerri Timmerwilke asked about a comfort or privacy kit. Nurse is receptive to a kit, that includes a pillow, drape, tucks pad, gloves etc. to provide comfort and modesty. There is a timer and seizure record as well but can be used for any issue. Kerri Timmerwilke can put together.

Also discussed Epilepsy foundation making information available to students. Discussing how to describe and communicate what a soft lockdown is to parents. It is epilepsy awareness month maybe we can put some more information out there.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 15th at 7 pm in the Jefferson Multi-purpose room.

Ioana Fernandez made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kelly Perry. Meeting was adjourned.