

Jefferson General PTA Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Attendees: Laura West, Jaime Schwager, Michelle Birtimier, Becca Harpster, Alisa Bena, Meg Aguilera, JoDee Weis, Ioana Fernandez, Phil Fernandez, Aleka Mandelaris, Kate Feutz, Maggie Schweitzer, Jennifer Hall, Kathy Fromm, Heidi Moy, Kerri Timmerwilke, Jen D'Alessandro, Michelle Kinney, Christie DiBenedetto, Maxine Kunz, Kelly Perry, Heidi Moy, Chrissy Zahn, Jessica Testani, Principal Leslie Weber, Dr. Mary Henderson – Associate Superintendent for Learning and Leadership Development

Call to Order: 8:30 am

Becca Harpster called the meeting to order. She invited everyone to help themselves to coffee and donuts. She introduced Dr. Henderson and said that she would speak first and then we would move to regular PTA business. After the PTA meeting adjourned, there would be a time for questions with Mrs. Weber. She thanked Megan Hood and Kerry Leiman and all of the fun run volunteers. There was a great turnout and it was a fun event.

The Minutes from the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were distributed, they had also been posted online. Kelly Perry motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Michelle Kinney. All members present voted to approved the minutes as presented. The mintues were approved.

Principal's Report. Mrs. Weber briefly gave a Principal's Report. Map testing will finish this week. She stated that grades 3-5 will only be taking Map tests this fall. She asked everyone to stay for the Q & A period after the meeting because it will focus on Standards Based Reporting. She also noted that Book Fair is coming up and there is a lot of fun family night activities planned. She noted that last year Author Gordan Korman came to Jefferson because of how successful the Book Fair was and thanked the volunteers. She also said that lunch volunteers would be starting soon.

Teachers' Report. Mrs. Weber gave the teachers' report on behalf of her staff. Mrs. Weber said that the teachers wanted to thank the PTA for all of it's support to start the school year.

Mrs. Weber then introduced Dr. Mary Henderson.

Dr. Mary Henderson's presentation. She started by saying that she would be reading much of the presentation because she wants to make sure she is giving the same presentation at different venues. She also said that it is the goal of the presentation to make information available. She used a slide show and her talk followed those slides.

- District Background Slide. She gave background on our district as a Unit District and that we compare to other Unit Districts. She noted that our other comparative districts are holding steady in student numbers but that we are continuing to grow.

- Point of Pride. This slide noted areas of pride for the District: the introduction of Dual Language, introduction of Project Lead the Way, a problem based STEM program in Middle School, it noted the success of York’s Musical, and listed total amount of scholarship money and that 98% of the community has post secondary plans.
- Master Facilities Process. This slide noted that the referendum is the final piece of the process. There have been surveys, presentations, phone polls and studies
  - Identified Priorities are in STEM, All Day Kindergarten, Facilities: Parity in facilities and safety and security
- At the August 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting the School Board unanimously voted to put the bond referendum on the November ballot.
- How the Money will be used. She stated that this is meant to address things at all sites and that the changes will take several years and the impact will last for decades.
  - Future Focused Learning Spaces. She noticed that schools will look different in the future with a move toward flexible areas, increase media and technology
  - Safety and Security. All schools will be brought in line with current expectations. This will mean entering into a secure foyer, no immediate access to student spaces. Also renovations at the York Auditorium to bring their lighting and electrical systems up to current Code
  - Rebuild & renovate. Lincoln is 103 years old – not ADA accessible, it has many problems due to the age of the building, mold etc. Field is 87 – the library has flooded, glue from the floor is visible. Both are inefficient to operate because of outdated systems. The ongoing maintenance at both sites is expensive. Also plans for projects at other individual sites – some neighborhood schools need additions or construction to accommodate All Day Kindergarten, Bryan needs more classroom space and the addition of a secure entrance will allow current office to be used for classrooms, Madison needs renovations because it was not built as an Early Childhood Center so not everything is age appropriate, Edison will be expanded: it is the only place with land to expand, it can be used to better balance students across the district,, space to house kids during renovations /building at other schools which is best option from safety and financial perspectives. Transition Program for kids with special needs, also need a new space, that is designed to help meet their needs.
  - Construction Timeline:
    - Phase I – Edison and Bryan
    - Phase II – Lincoln. Some students will be moved to Edison and Bryan
    - Phase III – rebuilding Field
  - Boundary Adjustments – The District heard that parents want to keep walking students walking. So the proposed adjustments are minor. Students currently being bussed to Jackson will be bussed to Edison and

will have the choice of continuing to Bryan or Sandberg. Students east of York will have an option of Hawthorne or Edison.

- Funding. The District has a strong bond rating. There will be retiring debt. The proposed referendum spreads debt over 25 years in 3 phases.
- Cost- for a \$500,000 home the estimate to be an additional \$150. Bond retiring and refinancing will allow the tax to be fairly consistent and not spike
- Comparative Districts – We are in the bottom three in the property tax percent on assessed home value.
- She stated that the District website has many links where more information can be found. Dr. Moyer’s State of the School address will be in a few days. She stressed that the current facilities need support. She also stated that there will be a Finance meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln at 7pm, with a building tour starting at 6pm. She also had some posters available that gave an overview of what is proposed at different buildings.

Dr. Henderson then opened the floor up for questions –

Jen D’Alessandro asked about a secure entry for Sandberg. Dr. Henderson stated that the plan is for Bryan’s to be done first because the addition of a secure entrance there will provide the secure entrance, as well as needed classroom space.

Kelly Perry asked what does site redevelopment include at Jefferson. Dr. Henderson said that she did not know the specifics. Phil Fernandez said that it includes regrading of the field, new black top etc. to help with the water issues at Jefferson. Dr. Henderson said that final designs won’t be done unless the referendum passes.

Kelly Perry asked about parity. Dr. Henderson replied that some schools are getting things that they don’t have.

There was a question about the \$150 figure. Dr. Henderson said that number is based on a \$500,000 – so for some the increase will be more but that number is per year across the time period, not cumulative each year.

Becca Harpster asked what happens if this referendum doesn’t pass, will the current taxes go down. Dr. Henderson replied that yes, but that the funding from the state won’t change. Jessica Testani asked if ultimately that will force some of the decisions the district says it doesn’t want to make. Dr. Henderson said that the referendum is about funding Capital Improvements but that if it doesn’t pass that would possibly mean difficult decision down the road in order to keep up with facility needs.

Jen D’Alessandro asked if there was a Plan B. Dr. Henderson responded that the the immediate result would be continuing band aid measures.

Dr. Henderson encouraged everyone to visit the district website and review the available information. The Slide Show that she used can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/elmhurst205.org/d205-master-facility-plan/history-of-master-facility-plan?authuser=0>

Becca Harpster also noted that there is a meeting tomorrow night at Cottage Hill Tavern at 7pm, by the group in favor of the referendum. She also said that at this time the Jefferson PTA has not taken official action to support or not support the referendum, we believe that right now our community is best served by making information available.

Becca Harpster thanked Dr. Henderson for her time. She then turned the meeting toward regular business. She noted that there would be a meeting for those parents signed up to help during lunch periods on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10-10:30 to go over expectations and that depending on how this program goes there will be more opportunities.

Membership Report – Regina Gaebel. There is still time to join the PTA, there are forms available for anyone here who hasn't joined. The dues go to pay our share of State and National Dues, the Support Jefferson helps us provide programs such as Jefferson running club, Science Olympiad and so much more. Please contact her if you have any questions.

Treasurer's Report – Kelly Perry read her report but said to please ask if you have any questions. Our total amount on hand as of July 1<sup>st</sup> was \$20,862.97. Currently we have \$14,629.66. Our largest disbursement was almost \$10,000 in support of the Maker Space which was approved last year but the money was not requested until this year. We have also had receipts mostly dues and support Jefferson. This is the biggest category of the receipts for the fall. She was asked when Winter Carnival is and responded March 2<sup>nd</sup>. A question was also asked about the STEM lab/Maker Space. Kelly responded that last year the PTA decided to support Classroom libraries and those costs were paid last year, and the maker space but that amount was not spent until this year, so the budget approved in August reflected that amount. She was asked what the goals are this year. Mrs. Weber said that she is having discussions with staff to see what their needs are, one idea from Mrs. Cusack is a cart with different ideas for structured recess which could also be used for TDPE. She said that because we've done so many big things, she wants to make sure little things that are needed are also being addressed.

Committees Report – Kerri Timmerwilk thanked the volunteers and Chairs who run and support all of the events the PTA organizes. She said that we are still working on ways to be consistent in advertising when we need volunteers and to publicize events. She noted that we have 2 big events coming up the Book Fair and Science Olympiad.

Programs Report – There will be a Bullying Awareness program in October as part of Red Ribbon week.

Ways and Means Report – Ioana Fernandez announced there would be an eat and earn at Portillo's the same night as family night during the Book Fair.

Recording Secretary – Jessica Testani stated there was no report.

Corresponding Secretary – Jennifer D'Alessandro stated that we are trying to streamline information. Grade level specific items will still be pushed out to class pages but for school wide information it will be directed to the Families of Jefferson facebook page and Tiger Beat. There was a question about the shutterfly class sites. It was answered that these were started by room moms as a place to store and organize pictures you will eventually need for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade memory book. IF anyone is not a part of those sites please contact room moms and they will get you added. Volunteer sign ups will be in tiger beat and on the website. Jessica Testani said that class specific sign ups will still come from Room Moms.

Webmaster Report – Michelle Kinney. We want the website to be a useful resource, she is working to improve it. She said if you are looking for something and can't find it – please let her know. Kate Feutz asked if teacher information has been updated. Mrs. Weber said she will look into. There was a brief discussion about how the PTA only deals with the PTA portion of the website which is accessed by going to the Jefferson website and using the Parent/Student Resources drop down menu. Becca Harpster noted that there are other great resources there too including REACH PTA and SERG. She noted that Tiger Beat really does have all of the information from the PTA and it goes to the addresses provided to the District. If you are not receiving it, you need to contact the district.

There was no new business.

Ioana Fernandez made a motion to adjourn. Kelly Perry seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion to adjourn passed.

The next meeting of the Jefferson PTA will be on Tuesday October 16 at 7pm in MPR. Becca Harpster thanked everyone for coming.