

Jefferson PTA Meeting September 6th, 2017

Attendance: Principal Leslie Weber, Phil Fernandez, Ioana Fernandez, Jennifer Hall, Kelly Perry, Becca Harpster, Michelle Kinney, Darren Goodner, Lara Bogenrief, Regina Gaebel, Jessica Testani, Kathy Fromm, Aleka Mandelaris

Phil Fernandez called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President's Report, Phil Fernandez

Ioana motioned to approve the minutes from the August meeting; Regina seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Thank you all for your support of our community and the PTA. We've had a great start to the school year. Thanks for attending the ice cream social, welcome back breakfast, and first PTA meeting of the year. A huge thank you to everyone who worked on the playground, but especially to Jennifer Hall and Kathy Fromm for leading the charge. Job well done!

This Saturday, September 9th at Sandburg Middle School at 9am, the Elmhurst Commission on Youth presents Jarrett Payton's Project: No Bull. For more info check out Talk205 email.

Next Wednesday, September 13th at 1:30pm there will be a superintendent coffee at Hawthorne Elementary School.

Monday, Sept 18th at 7pm in the York High School Commons, Dr. Moyer will present a State of the School address and will celebrate student and staff achievements, share district goals, and discuss Focus205 results.

All three middle schools have started an initiative to help schools impacted by Hurricane Harvey. For info on how to donate, where to donate, what to donate, check the Talk205 email.

If you are interested in what your children are learning with Chromebooks, D205 and the Elmhurst Public Library are partnering to offer classes on Chromebook Basics, Google Chrome Browser and Extensions, Assistive Chrome Extensions, and more. Dates begin September 13th. Check the library calendar and reserve your space now!

PTA meetings going forward will be on the first Thursday of every month (except January where date will be TBD) at 7pm.

Principal's Report, Leslie Weber

We are officially open on the playground and thanks to the PTA for all of their hard work and for taking pictures of the opening ceremony. Thank you for the money to fix the laminator. That is a crucial tool for the start of the school year!

We just finished Measure of Academic Progress ("MAP") testing for the fall. For 3rd – 5th grades, MAP tests happen in fall and winter. 3rd – 5th grades will take PARCC tests in the spring. 2nd graders will take the MAP test in fall, winter and spring, as they do not take PARCC. Results for Fall MAP testing will come in the next two or three weeks.

F&P (Fountas & Pinnell) testing is happening for K-5th. F&P tests literacy and accuracy in comprehension and identifies student instructional reading level. This benchmark will help us target student needs by instruction level for reading workshop etc. We are no longer using Aims Webb except for K. If a Kindergartener has 10 letter sounds, they will move on to F&P to get an instructional reading level. We will do F&P testing three times a year. Teachers will share students' F&P instructional reading level with parents during conferences.

Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring Staley the Bear from the Chicago Bears for a presentation on bullying in October. He will do two assemblies so all of the children can participate. One will be AM and one will be PM to accommodate Kindergarten. Ms. Chris Cusack, Jefferson School's social worker, has kids sign a pledge against bullying and they will do different things throughout the week to promote kindness and the anti-bullying message.

Oct 19th we have Erin's Law presentations. Every elementary school student is required to attend unless they opt out (for 1st – 3rd grade talking about respect and appropriate adult interactions, 4th – 5th is a little more involved, all students learn what to do if they don't feel comfortable with another person), for Kindergarten, Mrs. Weber and Ms. Cusack read a book and they learn about examples of safe adults who they can trust.

The district is continuing discussions about homework and that it shouldn't be too much, based on new research showing that homework does not impact achievement in elementary school. New Eureka math has been a bit challenging at certain grade levels and is putting kids into the "growth mindset," in other words, it's ok to struggle and that helps you grow.

Giving Tree update: We are going to keep the program during the day and will continue to do two assemblies. Kids will be on the stage this year so there will be more room for parents to attend. Tentative date is December 14th or possibly Dec 7th.

Mrs. Weber looks forward to reading on Thursday night at the Book Fair again this year.

Science Olympiad is October 12th.

Feast will be November 16th.

Teacher's Report

Nothing to report.

Vice President's Report, Aleka Mandelaris

All of the chairs have their packets, Regina Gaebel has volunteered to do legislation. Thanks, Regina!

Fun Glow Run, Book Fair, and Running Club are all starting soon or coming up! We have decided not to charge for the fun run but we will put out a donation bucket for collections.

Treasurer's Report, Kelly Perry

Financial Report – We currently have \$76,734.52 and we owe \$68,000 for the playground. We will have approx. \$8,000 left after we pay the playground company. This, along with membership support and dues, book fair profit, dine out nights and Carnival should get us to through the year without any problems.

Membership Report, Becca Harpster

Teacher membership has been reduced to \$10. Becca will be sending out a letter to Mrs. Weber to send out to the teachers and staff about joining the PTA.

Family memberships are \$15. Support donations are \$20 per child up to \$50 per family.

Program's Report, Ioana Fernandez

As Mrs. Weber mentioned, Staley the Bear will be coming in October for an anti-bullying message. The PTA will also sponsor a character in the spring and are researching possible ideas. If you have any ideas, please let Ioana know. We are looking to bring in speakers for the meeting. Playground safety will be a topic, any other suggestions will be welcome and let Ioana know. Preparedness, Pesticides, and Organization are all options.

Ways and Means Report, Kathy Fromm & Jennifer Hall

Potential dates for the carnival are February 24th or February 10th. It will be an auction year again but we will continue with the raffle baskets as well. We are also looking into credit card options for next year's carnival.

Portillo's dine out will be September 28th which is also Book Fair night. We will get 20% with paper or phone flyer that night.

There will be an on-line only spirit wear sale. Flyers will go out end of this week or beginning of next week and sale will begin Sept 15th. We will also have samples on display at the Book Fair. Orders will be due beginning of October. Product will arrive in November.

Book Fair will be a Western Theme. Saddle up and read! Scholastic will allow families to order on-line and their books will be waiting for them when they get to the book fair. Set up will be on

the morning of September 25th, on September 26th in the morning teachers will have a book talk with Scholastic, Tuesday after school is the “grand” event, Thursday is family night and Mrs. Weber will read at 7pm, and there will also be an appearance by Clifford. The fair will close on Friday after lunch. Each child will get to pick out a book that is \$5 or less and Scholastic will be sending us over 400 books within that price range.

Corresponding Secretary, Jess Testani

If you have anything to put into Tiger Beat, please let Jess know.

Recording Secretary, Julie Collins in absentia

Nothing to report.

Webmaster, Michelle Kinney

If you have anything to put on the website or any ideas for additional information to include on the website, please let Michelle know.

New Business

Phil and Mrs. Weber brought up the idea of a “parent patrol” for managing the drop-off traffic around the school. A PTA parent has already volunteered to lead that. We will try to get more volunteers through the Tiger Beat.

Dad’s Club is planning a bike ride coming in October. Dad’s club is also purchasing fans for the gym. Thanks to the Dad’s for everything they do throughout the year!

Ioana motioned to adjourn, Becca seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.