



Jefferson PTA General Meeting Minutes September 18, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

- **Call To Order** – Phil Fernandez
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Welcome** – Phil Fernandez
 - Agenda eventually on website
- **Reading and Adoption of minutes** from last meeting August 14, 2019
 - **Geoff Gaebel: motion to approve minutes from August General Jefferson PTA Meeting as written; Regina Gaebel 2nd**
 - **UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES**
- **Principal's Report – DR PODRAZA**
 - **UNLIMITED GROWTH AND CONNECTION** – Focus for the year - Teachers to teacher, teacher to student, student to world, etc. Wants to promote all students growing socially, emotionally, academically.
 - ⇒ **Individual Students:** – Teachers are using Late Starts to discuss individual students and set goals to get to know some that they may not know as well.
 - ⇒ **Learning Strand for Teachers** – District 205 is allowing teachers to pick learning strands (innovation – integrated strands, reading workshop, project based learning, social-emotional piece)
 - ⇒ **Focusing on 6 Cs**
 - ⇒ **Reading workshops** - working with kids to individually tailor with their own interests, to world around them, etc.
 - ⇒ **LICE ISSUES**
 - ⇒ Dr Podraza spoke to Assistant to Superintendent about preventative measures.
 - ⇒ No need to bring head check personnel. Can have RN check. Will meet with Collette tomorrow.
 - **OUTDOOR CLASSROOM:**
 - ⇒ putting tarps up to cover the outdoor classroom – talking to contractors.
 - **AMERICAN FLAG IN MPR:**
 - ⇒ Mr Dave will put up American flag in MPR
 - **JEFFERSON TIGER NAMING CONTEST**
 - ⇒ lots of different suggestions will have to figure out a way to do vote.
 - **GOOGLE SLIDES FAMILY PROJECT**
 - ⇒ Goal is for families all to send google slide about their family. Dr Podraza will be sending information and template for this shortly.
 - **IEP MEETING CHANGES** –
 - ⇒ Dr Podraza has been off site meeting with District regarding changes in IEP meetings – more information to follow the next couple of weeks.

- **Third Grade Teachers: MS DARLEY, MRS FURLONG, MRS GROTE**

- **THANK YOU:**

- ⇒ **Indoor Recess Kits:** thank you. Also being used for math centers and STEM opportunities.
- ⇒ **Lunch/Recess parent volunteers:** Thank you for recess and lunch duty
- ⇒ **Unlimited Growth Totes** Thank you for totes

- **3rd GRADE BUSINESS:**

- ⇒ **Acceleration:** starts with Intro on Friday, Officially start on Monday.
- ⇒ **We Video:**

- **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- We video allows for summarization of books as students transition from decoding to summarizing.
- They will make book reviews to work on this skill.
- Will put QR codes on books so people can see the book trailers

- ⇒ **LOGISTICS** (question from Kelly Perry – how the Summary piece will work):

- Tiers: will tier into about 6 different tiers. Initially will use Fontanelle and Pinelli to form groups. Eventually then using SBRs, Classroom data, etc to continue to differentiate.
- Classroom: this will be within the classroom time

- ⇒ **Critical Thinking:**

- Will be meeting with Dr Podraza about 3rd grade goals soon.
- Math Goals: Goal is building fluency , student flexibility and number sense.
 - ⇒ Use Math workshops to do different activities on fluency.
- Overall Goals: Encouraging questions

- **TEACHER QUESTIONS FOR PTA**

- ⇒ Teachers would like to know how to use the online portal for the PTA sign ups.
 - Phil Fernandez: We are using Membership Toolkit and will send out direct link for this. Will also give manual forms to Michelle Guerino to sign up as well..
 - Would also like to receive Tiger Beat
 - Kathy Fromm: will sign them up

- **PTA QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS**

- ⇒ Kelly Perry: Wondering about the Reading ability letters and change not to tell the kids their letters – it was helpful to know when going to library. Can we ask teachers?
 - ⇒ Yes
- ⇒ Kelly Perry: Wondering if there were things they can do things outside of school?
 - Mrs Furlong: reading at home. Asking to summarize. Working to do retelling vs summarizing. What's important in their stories.
- ⇒ Kelly Perry: feeling like getting somewhat limited information on students.
 - Dr Podraza: will continue to work on communicating will be sending letters out saying not meeting grade level standards and then 6week follow up.
- ⇒ Someone asked if student led vs curriculum led thinking has impacted the 3rd grade teachers.
 - DARLEY: has changed in goals – how to have kids have strong interest in trailers – then may like do that and inspire learning. Also listening to students and how to change content to change.
 - FURLONG: wants to get to know students and motivate each student
 - GROTE: with lesson planning student led – trying to make it that way.

- **PTA Board Introductions & Reports**

- **VP MEMBERSHIP - JEN TAYLOR** (Phil Fernandez reporting for Jen)

- ⇒ **MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:** 153 members this year so far. If have not signed up please do so. Usually above 200. Sometime soon will shut off membership toolkit for those who did not pay dues.

- Can also use myschoolanywhere as there is a link.

- ⇒ **QUESTIONS**

- Geoff Gaebel: how will you sign up if you lose membership toolkit access because you do not sign up as a member of the PTA?
 - ⇒ Phil Fernandez will let us know how this will be done
- Beccca Harpster: can use Sign Up Genius?
 - ⇒ Phil Fernandez - membership tool kit is tracking volunteer hours which is why does not want to use sign up genius.
- Cathy Dykes: Can event chairs create sign ups or does the PTA Board have to do it?
 - Phil Fernandez: Right now only PTA Board can do it because of all the access on membership tool kit.
 - Phil Fernandez: Once sign ups are set up by committees, they can be reused in future years with some editing.
- Meredith Vogel: Bryan has last day to sign up for PTA. Why not Jefferson?
 - Kelly Perry : Bryan has paper directory so this is why they close it quickly.
 - Phil Fernandez: will do a push in the next couple weeks to close the PTA membership, but will keep it open for continued membership sign up.

- **TREASURER – MEREDITH VOGEL**

- ⇒ **BUDGET:**

- PLEASE SEE BUDGET FOR DETAILS ON NUMBERS
- Changes in budget – will be on next meeting
- Reminders for expense reports – scan any expense reports and send picture to MV. Will upload into quickbooks on line. Bin in office as well.
- For modernizing banking – can look at quick books and have others look at paperwork as well.
 - Right now we have dual check signers. Meredith would like to change to 1 check signer, but use other ways to verify funding. Reviewing sequential checks, etc. other controls that we can use so dual checking does not need to happen.
 - Once dual check signing is no longer a requirement, we can do online banking. (Community Bank of Elmhurst)

- ⇒ **REQUEST FORMS** – take pictures of request form along with any receipts to send to treasurer on line.

- ⇒ **QUESTIONS**

- Gina Padgett: New tax exemption form uploaded on website yet?
 - Phil Fernandez: not yet because needs a more legible copy. Given license not letter

- **VP WAYS AND MEANS – - IOANA FERNANDEZ**

- ⇒ **BOOK FAIR** – setting up Friday

- Theme is Arctic Adventures

- Open for teachers Monday afternoon. Teachers wish baskets.
 - Tuesday- family night and fundraiser at – at 4PM- 8PM before going to Family night. Dr Podraza will also be there. Tuesday and Wednesday are classroom dates
 - Wednesday – Grand event – 830-930 is Grand event – whatever family members and then after school
 - Thursday – open after school
 - Goal is to collect 1500 books – Bernie’s book bank so bring books in. bring books 12 books a year to underprivileged kids.
 - Classroom time and after school and will get raffle tickets for a stack of books for prizes.
 - Has ewallet this year as well through Scholastics.
 - Cathy Dykes asked if we can pay another way- yes can bring cash
 - Volunteer dates – in the website. Classroom visits can be posted on Facebook
 - If book fair gets promoted on Social Media can get free author visit. Use hash tags being promoted on Facebook for Scholastics.
 - Tiger Stack Attack – will see if can stack the most books. Can post these stackings on social media.
 - Will have special day for the classroom that has the most posts
 - Phil Fernandez - lots of information in the Tiger beat. Can contact Kathy Fromm or ioana Fernandez for questions.
 - Kathy Fromm - lots of information on website
- ⇒ **TRIVIA NIGHT:** November 15 – Knights of Columbus
- Teams of 8.
 - Will bring food for Trivia night and maybe karaoke afterwards.
- ⇒ **SPIRIT WEAR** – brought over \$250 this fall. Will have another sale in the winter.
- **VP COMMITTEES - KERRI TIMMERWILKE**
 - ⇒ Thank you Hospitality Committee for all of their hard work
 - ⇒ Thank you Dr Podraza and Katie for Coffee Talk.
 - Next one is December
 - ⇒ Fun Run – was fantastic. At Jefferson. Worked out well.
 - Geoff Gaebel: Only suggestion – start ½ hour earlier bc dark in dark corner
 - Phil Fernandez: Parking lot timer was not going off that day bc still on summer hours which was why it was so dark
 - **PROGRAMS - DONNA HAYES AND PAM MCGUCKIN**
 - ⇒ Phil Fernandez: this year we put the T in parent teacher association and have teachers at the meetings and love their opinions, and gives us a new perspective. Thank you to Donna Hayes and Pam McGuckin for being willing to step into this role.
 - ⇒ **FALL ASSEMBLY** is on October 28 during Bully prevention week “Cool to be Kind”. Chris Kusak has put this assembly together. All school assembly
 - ⇒ **SPRING ASSEMBLY** is February 13 – Bots: the Secret World of Robots – by Mobile Ed productions. All school assembly.
 - **WEBMASTER – STEPHANIE PALZKILL** Phil Fernandez speaking for Stephanie
 - ⇒ Goals – improve functionalization of website
 - ⇒ Move to everything on line.
 - ⇒ Looking for feedback

⇒ Phil Fernandez: Stephanie has been doing a fantastic job to make website look better and is put things on the website in a timely manner.

○ **PRESIDENT'S REPORT -PHIL FERNANDEZ**

⇒ **FUNDRAISING GOAL TIMELINE** for this year

- PTA Goals to present to the District for 2019 – 2020 must be presented in October this year instead of in past years in April-May
- Would like to mitigate expenses this year – donations from families, etc.
- Goal is to meet the October 1 deadline of presentation of Jefferson Elementary's funding goals to District 205

⇒ Dr Christina Podraza – **FUNDRAISING GOALS**: 2 categories this year - Professional Learning and Technology

- **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS**: helps to try innovative ideas. Use their ideas to grow and connect.
 - Ex; professional learning books for teachers.
 - Ex: acceleration block wants to try new things. Some may need more math some more ELA. Can support by individual interest. Baking, sports, etc.
 - Support literacy – magazines – “Time for Kids” - connections to the world
 - Genius Hour Startup funds - \$250/classroom. Wants to use this for passion projects – what is a problem I would like to solve?
 - National Speaker – George Couros - \$12000 – “if children leave school less curious than when they started, we failed them.”
 - PF: hoping District will be interested in helping funds for this program.
 - Phil Fernandez: also asking for alternative seating in the library as well – may put that on our fundraising goals
- **TECHNOLOGY RELATED FUNDING GOALS** - teach using technology responsibly and creatively. Opportunity to use this inside school instead of only just outside of school.
 - Dot and dash
 - 3Dprinter
 - Ipads
 - Social Media Club – 5th grade – want to teach how to use social media postively
 - √ Bringing in social media speakers, or how to use in jobs, etc.
 - √ Will also use it talk about what's going on around school.
 - √ Will only post on school accounts. Cannot do anything at home. Only at the social media club.

⇒ **QUESTIONS**:

- Geoff Gaebel: What happens if we second guess on our fundraising goals? Is there flexibility in changing them?
 - Phil Fernandez: we will have ability to change them if needed.
- Becca Harpster: Where is the 3D printer?
 - Gina Padgett – had some ideas for the 5th grade teachers for 3D printers, but then was told we had not received yet
 - Dr Podraza – we have not received the 3D printer yet, and will be working on a plan for flow for the 3D printer.
 - Donna Hayes – is the 3D printer hard to operate.
 - √ Dr Podraza – best to play with it.

√ Gina Padgett – could the Elmhurst Public Library have people come to train teachers? She will ask if they would be willing to set up an inservice for the teachers.

- Kelly Perry: How are we prioritizing our funding goals as funds come in?
 - Kelly Perry: Not starting with a lot of money from the past year
 - Meredith Vogel: There are also expense changes. Suggestion that instead of \$1500 for Running Club maybe 3D printer access would be more important
 - Kelly Perry: furniture in library or 3D printer in the library would benefit everyone vs other things.
 - Dr Podraza: can also talk to teachers about what contributions will impact students the most.
- Phil Fernandez: Does PTA inequity issues impact our fundraising goals?
 - District wants to make sure all schools in the district has everything that others have as well.
 - There is a plan to upgrade all schools and technology and furniture.
 - Foundation took over 3D printer to ensure every school in District 205 has access to 1.
 - If we can donate things through our community then can use those funds allocated for the donated items for other things in other schools.
- Becca Harpster: She remembers Dad's Club offering to pay for 2 gaga ball pits, maybe they still have funding?
 - Phil Fernandez: cannot put in a 2nd one until draining is improved in 3 years so can discuss with Dad's Club
 - Dr Podraza – on side note- thank you to Ciaran O'Laughlin for fixing the hinges on the handicap door after there was some damage done not during school hours. There are cameras that are on the gaga ball pit to monitor these types of activities.

⇒ **FUNDRAISING CHANGES**

- Ioana Fernandez: Discussed changing Silent Auction to take place in the fall during Trivia Night instead of in the spring during the Tiger Fest.
- Goal is to make Trivia Night Silent Auction bigger than Tiger Fest this year
- Other funding: Spirit wear (\$500), Square One Arts (\$2000), Book Fair. Social nights out can also bring in money, Bunco nights as well. Any ideas for fundraisers to let us know.
- Phil Fernandez: Dad's club can also bring in funds as well. Phil is working with Danny Villanueva and Dr Podraza to discuss how to work together.

⇒ **MOTION TO VOTE TO APPROVE GOALS AS ABOVE TO PRESENT TO THE DISTRICT AS OUR FUNDRAISING GOALS FOR THE YEAR**

- *Ioana Fernandez Motions; Regina Gaebel seconds*
- *MAJORITY AGREES – approval to present fundraising goals as above to District 205 in October*

• **New Business**

- Author of "How to Raise an Adult" – will be at York HS with book signing – Monday at 7PM
 - ⇒ Gina Padgett: REACH PTA is planning on reading this book as a group
- Bike tour is on Sept 27 for Dad's Club.

- **Next General PTA Meeting** is Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at Jefferson School in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)
- **Adjournment**
 - Ioana Fernandez: motions to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Fromm seconds.

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

- September 23-27 - Arctic Adventure Book Fair Week
 - ⇒ September 24 - Book Fair Family Night, 5:00-8:00PM
 - ⇒ September 25 - Book Fair GRAND Event, 8:30-9:30AM
- September 24 - Eat & Earn Event at Portillo's, 4:00-8:00PM
- September 25 - Student Late Start Day
- October 17 - Science Olympiad
- October 28 - Bullying Prevention Assembly
- November 15 - Trivia Night/Silent Auction