



Jefferson PTA General Meeting Minutes November 20, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Kathy Fromm, Ioana Fernandez, Geoff Gaebel, Phil Fernandez, Kanako Shuaipaj, Christina Podraza, Superintendent David Moyer, Karen Stuefen, Mrs Friedericks, Mrs Diedrich, Yolo Adams

Call To Order - Phil Fernandez

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Welcome** - Phil Fernandez
- **Reading and Adoption of minutes** from last meeting October 16, 2019
 - **Motion to approve minutes** – with increase in budget added in to last minutes, then Geoff Gaebel. 2nd Ioana Fernandez
 - All approve
- **KAREN Stuefen** (Board of Education Secretary, school liaison for Jefferson, Committee member of LEND – Legislative Education Network of Du Page)
 - **Referendum** – moving along –
 - **Bidding** done after January 2020 and being finalized.
 - Some things will be leveraged in the bidding.
 - Sustainability is a new district wide initiative.
 - Thanks for starting eco club here.
 - Phil Fernandez: Alerted by Cool Cities project to go to the meeting. Jill Jarvis there as well. Happy it is now part of the agenda at D205. Commend group for looking at it.
 - Phil Fernandez: trying to start food recycling in the lunchroom. Others in the district already do it, so would like to incorporate here at Jefferson.
 - Workshop at last Board of Education Meeting – trying to represent the community and many voices, so workshop helps to brainstorm and work through all the nuances as we deploy.
 - Thrive D205 – world filled with anxiety. Kids reflecting this anxiety. Creating world of division which brings on more anxiety.
 - This is trying to look at root causes that cause these anxieties.
 - Take away was what can we do to help this anxiety – trying to work through strategies to understand what is causing the anxiety to try to decrease it.
 - Excited with what is going on at Jefferson to try to help with anxiety.
 - Should be message to learn strategies based on what we are all dealing with – based on talking, etc.
 - Working together, seek to understand everyone.
 - Focusing on building confidence and understanding on what is going on to reduce stress.
 - Metrics – must measure what we are doing bc otherwise hard to know how we measure nationally.
 - Just passed referendum – which was a big sign of community feeling education is important.

- Assessment – feedback for development. Is there consistency of curriculum, learning, teaching? What is really going on with our students.
- **Dr Moyer –**
 - Visits and evaluates 3 principals a year.
 - Here to observe and get a better understanding of what is important at Jefferson.
 - Phil Fernandez: there are a whole group of people who selected principal – thanks to all for bringing in Dr Podraza to Jefferson
- **Principal's Report - Dr. Podraza**
 - This AM Had professional learning strand. Professional leadership.
 - Working on what kinds of innovations that are going on in the building what is going well and what is not.
 - Trust and how this helps
 - School improvement plan – Jefferson Unlimited Growth and Connection.
 - Growth – growing academically, social/emotional, character.
 - Connection – working to connect community – student to student, staff to student, etc.
 - Using positive phone calls home.
 - Teachers working to find out interests of kids
 - Teachers are doing a lot of communications over Seesaw. Parents can also then like or comment on things.
 - Dr. Podraza is also on Instagram – to follow
 - Dr Podraza also enjoys connecting with kids.
 - PLC (professional learning community) – why are we doing this?
 - Continuous cycle of what we are doing and what can we do to improve
 - Overall goals for Jefferson – Teachers take time to observe others teaching (8/29 agree or strongly agree); Disagreements over instructional practices are voiced openly and discussed (12/30 agree strongly agree)
 - How are we going to get there
 - Goal#1: Establish a common vision between teachers, working with PLCs to discuss the students to understand the student and discuss each student, goals groupies – teachers working on the same goal work together on their goals and can observe one another; Cindy Harrison came for PLC feedback and felt most had high levels of trust; peer to peer observations in January using “noticing and wondering”; Dr Podraza and instructional coaches visit PLC once a month for support.
 - Karen Stuefen: question – does this happen with collaboration between Special Ed teachers, or only between grade levels?
 - Special Ed teachers -work together with classroom teachers; informally in and out classrooms as well.
 - Goal #2: Math Workshop - goal is to reach level 3 proficiency in math as measured by grade level standards by end of 3rd trimester of 2019-20 school year.
 - Working on microshifts – how to put in more student interests, or progressing students in different ways
 - Also to discuss technology and how to use that to make math learning better
 - Math is not about being a calculator, but a mathematical thinker

- Facilitated IEPs are new this year – those who get special ed services who have IEPs – means meets with family once or more than once a year formally and legally.
 - Trying to change meetings from formally to more collaborative. Fairly new. Want to have families more a part of the conversation. Parents get a chance to also have input.
 - Visual process, and more of a conversation. To help parents and teachers understand more about IEP process.
 - All paperwork goes home the Friday before the meeting Wednesday so parents can read the assessment prior to the meeting.
 - Focus is about student.
 - Parents afterwards are directed to fill out survey to understand more how they feel about the IEP process. So far has been a positive experience.
 - Being rolled out in buildings in different times 2/2 training. Jefferson is the first to roll out.
 - David Moyer – would like to express appreciation on student services to improve relationship with parents and processes. Getting high level of parent satisfaction with IEP.
 - The professional development that they received about IEP meeting training was the best that the teachers have received.
 - Phil Fernandez how do we as parents talk to our own kids about kids with IEPs
 - Mrs Friedericks: always worried about recess for the kids who are special needs kids – but they are doing so well – accepting of one another in this community. Rarely have issues with kids who are not being accepted.
 - Feels like already done – everyone has quirks and still accepting.
 - The more we talk about “labels” the more normalizing it is.
 - Ioana Fernandez: thank you for all the work that special ed teachers have put together.
 - Yolo Adams: her son got accepted to NORA project. Why do we not have Nora project at Jefferson? He has to go to Jackson to do this.
 - Nora Project Program teaches empathy to 5th graders – educating kids on how to teach empathy through action. Trying to train kids to do empathy and kindness in good ways. Select kids that have some needs and it’s a club goes 3-4 times a year to do team building activities, and games to understand different kids.
 - Phil Fernandez: thank you for being here – learned a lot from all the teachers.
- **PTA Board Introductions & Reports**
 - VP of Membership - Jen Taylor – absent
 - At 197 members. Last year at 240.
 - Ending process should be end of November bc need \$ in to Illinois PTA.
 - Made first payment beg of October for 142 members.
 - Treasurer - Meredith Vogel - absent
 - Taxes are done and filed.
 - Thank you to Kelly Perry for getting it all done
 - Cash balance \$9721 in checking ; \$10614 in savings
 - Need – Kathy Fromm to review first bank account and statement. Kerri Timmerwilke reviewing quickbooks and Phil Fernandez also looks at quickbooks once a week.
 - Nothing to vote on
 - VP of Committees - Kerri Timmerwilke

- Thanksgiving feast is tomorrow – fully staffed with volunteers -and thank you. Indoor recess most likely.
 - On the website – new family friendly tab under events on website – singled out events for families only. If like it great if not then we can take it off.
 - Date change for roller skating party – it will be March 29, 2020 from 4-6PM
 - Chicago Wolves tickets for purchase on March 14 to support Jefferson Singers
- VP of Ways & Means - Ioana Fernandez
 - Trivia Night – last Friday at Knights of Columbus. Had over 60 donors towards silent auction, 6 food donors – food coffee and sweets, 128 guests 2 tables of teachers; 1st floor won
 - 27 auction baskets.
 - Decades tables – everyone came in costume
 - Final numbers will be published next week.
 - Thankful for all the people who helped for break down and set up.
 - Phil Fernandez: did karaoke this year as well – people got into it!
- VPs of Programs - Donna Hayes & Pam McGuckin - absent
- Corresponding Secretary - Kathy Fromm
 - Social Committee Agenda – lots of fun events for families and adults only
 - Kie and Kate’s shopping in December
 - York Food Pantry – working on community service project open to Jefferson families to participate
 - Mary Poppins this year at Drury Lane
- Recording Secretary - Kanako Shuaipaj – nothing to report
- Webmaster - Stephanie Palzkill - absent
- President’s Report & Correspondence - Phil Fernandez
 - Lots of info on Tigerbeat and district 205.
 - Traditionally no PTA mtg in December for General. Next one is Wed Jan 15. 7pm.
 - Thanks for all time and effort.
- **New Business**
- **Next General PTA Meeting** is Wednesday, January 15, 2019 at Jefferson School in the Library
- **Adjournment**
 - Ioana Fernandez motion to adjourn; Kathy Fromm 2nd
 - Adjourned

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

- October 29-November 22 - UCCA Food and Gift Card Drive
- November 20 - PTA Meeting, 7:00PM, Jefferson Library
- November 21 - Thanksgiving Feast, 11:00AM-12:00PM, Jefferson Gym
- November 22 - Report Cards available
- November 22 - Student Council Spirit Day - "80's Day"
- November 25-26 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 26-29 - Thanksgiving Break - No School
- December 4 - Kie&Kate Holiday Shopping Event, 6:00PM-8:00PM
- December 10 - Coffee with Dr. Podraza, 8:30AM, Jefferson MPR
- December 11 - Student Late Arrival Day
- December 11 - Band Concert (Grades 4-8), 7:00PM, Bryan Middle School
- December 12 - The Giving Tree Assembly, 8:30AM, Jefferson Gym
- December 17 - Orchestra Concert (Grades 4-8), 7:00PM, Bryan Middle School