

## PTO Meeting Minutes 10/5/2020

Jessica opened the meeting with introductions of those in attendance and set the meeting agenda.

- First discussion was an introduction of the current board members (Jessica - President, Amy - Treasurer, and Andrea - Secretary) and the several board positions that needed to be filled. Board elections for these positions will take place during the next PTO meeting in November. Board members are asked to serve for a two-year commitment period, which is a great, low-pressure way to get your feet wet since there is much support from senior board members.
- There will be a virtual book fair the week of Fall break. Please check it out and support the school. We are trying to figure out what this year's schedule will look like as we still want families, children, staff and teachers to be able to be active participants in the school community and to make strong connections to foster growth and learning. This year, we will not have any in-person events thru January. We are seeking other virtual ideas and events, so please share your ideas!!

Judi provided an update as to all the really wonderful work that has been done by teachers and staff over the summer and that continues since the start of this school year. This year has truly been a collaborative effort for both distance and hybrid approaches. Everyone's roles were affected, and there was a strong commitment to safety and developing and implementing protocols and plans.

- The students have adapted very well and are practicing distancing, good hygiene and mask wearing. Teachers are their creative caring selves who support really good routines and practices in their classrooms and throughout the school. Home hybrid classes are adapting and making agile adjustments to make learning very meaningful while at home. Meals are going well. Breakfast is delivered to all grades. Students in grades 2-4 pickup lunches and eat in their classrooms. The biggest management task has been arrival and dismissal, but it is getting better each week. The gym is utilized for the approximately 160 students that are dropped off, and there is social distancing observed in the gym during those time.
- Conferences will be different this year, and the teachers will be reaching out to families directly. Conferences will be virtual this year - sometime during month of Oct, each family will have conversation with teacher that is interactive and collaborative, can be webex, phone, email. Each teacher will designate day times and evening times and can be flexible to meet needs of all our families. We anticipate that distance learning will be similar because this is a plan being implemented throughout the district. The school hopes to develop on-going communication which is a great value to families. Last spring, the district's efforts focused on increased, strong communication, and the district got really good feedback. This year, the district's intent is to continue this constant communication so that teachers communicate with families on a daily or weekly basis. The school is wanting to establish a partnership with the parents to improve the students' experience at school and how he/she/they are learning, and this will be a part of their learning profile that is comprised of their interests, strengths, and needs and also will help inform their learning map. Your child's teacher will share more about your child's learning profile and learning map at conferences. Students have access to their learning profiles through their Schoology app. You also can ask your child to show you the learning profile if they are proficient in the Schoology apps. The learning profile is a tool for the children, and the student owns their own profile, which follows them from year to year and school to school. The learner map is a document

that the teacher uses, but the school also wants families to know what is in the map, and the goal is to really have this map developed as to where a student is now and what are the next steps for this particular student. The learning map focuses mostly math and reading.

- Exciting news!! The district is implementing a new reading curriculum for grades K-6. It is called "Wit and Wisdom," and it focuses on good literature, both non-fiction and fiction. It is a comprehensive program that engages students in higher level thinking and authentic learning experiences. It has a very robust component in writing and focuses more on performance tasks vs multiple choice questions. The district has received great feedback and excitement from teachers for this new curriculum. It also comes with an exclusive partner program for phonics. The goal is to implement the curriculum in early December.

The discussion was opened up for questions for Judi regarding school this year. One question that arose concerned the hybrid model and some challenges in today's learning environment. Specifically, it was asked what the mapping process is in the hybrid model and how can teachers really assess each student to know their performance and where they are at level-wise since physical and classroom interaction is not the same. This makes it difficult to provide feedback as to performance, especially when students are remote for three days. Judi provided assurance that the teachers are able to make formative assessments along the way and that these formative assessments are especially important at first because they must know where students are at. These assessments continue throughout the year, and teachers should be in constant communication with parents and should be sharing their assessments with the parents. Assessments can be gathered in many different ways, including observation, fluency data, questions, written assessments or practice testing. This year, the district did not do as many screeners as they normally do but teachers need to discuss as a team what we need to do and that we are able to personalize and differentiate. Judi has and will continue to stress to teachers that teachers should be providing this type of information directly to families. As always, Judi reminded us that families can follow up with Judi or the teacher directly as well.

The next PTO board meeting will be held virtually via Webex on Monday, November 2nd. Details and link will be shared prior to the meeting. Please consider attending for some or all of the next PTO meeting, and please consider joining the board.