



Jefferson PTA General Meeting Agenda January 13, 2021

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER – at 7:35 Meghan Hood

Attendance: Meghan Hood, Jen Bullock, Kanako Shuaipaj, Jackie Messina, Laura West, Cathy Dykes, Kathy Fromm, Mrs Grote, Ms Riemersma, Ms Darley, Dr Podraza, Meredith Vogel, Becca Harpster, Maggie Schweitzer, Alecka Mandelaris, Jill Burns, Marcella Fikaris, Ioana Fernandez, Phil Fernandez, Kerri Timmerwilke, Jean Hogan, Lesley Samuel, Laura H

- Pledge of allegiance
- No meeting minutes tonight for General Meeting to read and approve. [DECEMBER MINUTES](#) posted on the website. Please let us know if there are any objections.

3RD GRADE TEACHERS Welcome to 3rd grade teachers – Riemersma, Darley, Grote

- Mrs Grote
 - Thank you to all families and all the support.
 - GOOGLE JAM BOARD: used for math collaboration among classmates.
 - Students can write on board with teacher
 - Will be in break out rooms in groups of 3-4. They can use Jamboard to teach each other and then they teach one of those problems to everyone else.
 - Has been very successful.
- Ms Riemersma
 - new 3rd grade teacher at Jefferson. Just graduated in May.
 - Feels so lucky to have the class she has and thank you. Parents have been fantastic, good support, flexibility and help.
 - PEER REVIEW: Discussed language we use to give peer review.
 - Affirmation sandwich – 1 good thing, then one thing they can change and then 1 other good thing.
 - CLASS BOOK: about her 3rd grade class.
 - All worked together to make a class book together. Each wrote paragraphs and shared it.
 - Able to see and share each other's work which helped to motivate each other to have a higher level.
- Ms Darley
 - 3rd year teaching at Jefferson. Wonderful coworkers, parents, families.
 - CONNECTIONS: Working with connection, and connecting with students.
 - GOOGLE SITES:
 - Creating websites about themselves – interest, problem, or something they wanted to teach. Shared an example of a website that a student had made.
- QUESTIONS for 3rd Grade Teachers:
 - abstain

PRINCIPAL REPORT:

- KIDS BACK IN SCHOOL:
 - Nice to have kids back in school this week. Nice to have lockers
 - Doing well with self certification
 - Thank you for bringing charged devices and all the supplies and such.
- GEORGE COUROS
 - Keynoting Jefferson staff address on Friday, 1/15.
 - He was fundraised by Jefferson to come here.
 - Came in the fall to talk to 205 that District paid for.
 - Parent meeting – also Friday 1/15
- COFFEE WITH DR PODRAZA
 - Thursday, Jan 21 at 830am
 - Focusing on next 100 days.
 - Will have district administrator there.
 - Also would like to hear questions.
- SNACKS: snacks and kids eating outside –
 - District wide, need to be outside for 15minutes to eat because we are in substantial transmission.
 - They can either sit or stand while having snack.
- CLASSROOM VENTILATION:
 - Because we are in substantial transmission, windows have to be open. Once out of substantial transmission then these measures will change.
 - Rec from IDPH for extra safety precautions.
 - Ventilation is good at Jefferson, just extra safety precautions.
 - Recommend being dressed in layers
 - If too cold, kids can talk to teacher as well.
- ERIN'S LAW:
 - presentations will happen. Unsure if outside provider or internal.
 - Letter will be sent to all families with date and opt out option.
- MAP TESTING:
 - MAP testing for 2nd grade in February (beginning of Feb)
 - Information to be sent out soon.
- COGAT TESTING:
 - Doing COGAT testing in person. This information also will come out.
 - Even students who are remote discussed should come in person to do COGAT bc can control for technical issues better in person.
 - More information will come out in written form.
- DAILY MEALS:
 - New notification – all children should be fed a meal a day by 205.
 - Starting tomorrow, meals will be handed out to the kids at the end of the day. Therefore, all kids will come home with a meal. More information will come out in newsletter on Friday by Podraza.
- QUESTIONS:
 - Jackie Messina: how heavy are the lunches?
 - Dr Podraza: does not think too heavy. They will be all non perishables. Most likely a sack lunch.
 - Meredith Vogel: why can't the kids leave supplies in their own lockers?

- Dr Podraza: things get sprayed all over the building so therefore does not want to spray it on the lockers with vents. Spray is non toxic but may harm certain supplies. Eventually will explore once things are settled.
- Meredith Vogel: will just be helpful to be able to put some things in lockers
- Dr Podraza: will ask at district meeting tomorrow.
- Meredith Vogel: has there been discussion at teacher level on reinventing Wednesdays and having people come into the building Wednesdays.
 - Dr Podraza: currently not exploring while under substantial transmission, but maybe later once we are not, there may be a discussion. She has not heard anything about it, or if anything would be in place.
- Lesley Samuel: heard that Spanish curriculum will be taken out of the elementary level by superintendent.
 - Dr Podraza: Moyer presented at the Board Meeting last night.
 - Meredith Vogel: going to put to vote in 2 weeks – difficulty in how it is being run and felt that immersion should be a K through 5 and this is not what is happening.
 - Some Board Members pushed back and will look into other options, but will most likely not become a requirement, so will become an after school program or during lunch.
 - 205 wants to use that time for Health and Social/Emotional Learning.
 - Dr Podraza: 205 is not meeting the Health requirements as set by the State of Illinois, so plan to add into PE curriculum to have Health as part of it. Will have extra day of Health. This is what will replace Spanish.
 - Feel that language is important, but not set up well in the sense that they will be speakers, but more an exposure to it.
 - Feels things need to be structured differently.
 - It was not because teacher did not want to teach, more logistical things that happened this year.
 - Parents should advocate what one would like for lunch or after school programs. Also important to learn it as well. There is also dual language at this time at Conrad Fischer.
 - Not transferring well with most kids at Middle School.
- Becca Harpster: even exposed to it at early time even if not fluent, can pick it up easier.
 - Disappointed that we are not exposing kids to that. Her kids did not have the choice to do dual language, and wish language could be phased out instead.
 - If we are going to have after school or lunch program then who will be teaching this?
 - Dr Podraza – will advocate for a strong program. Feel very strongly about language.

PTA BOARD REPORTS

Membership – Maggie Schweitzer

- Thank you for joining PTA this year.
- If any questions about memberhub or membership to reach out.

----- Notes above taken by alternate Kanako Shuaipaj, taken over by Cathy Dykes at this point -----

Programs – Kanako Shuaipaj

- 3rd Grade Junior Great Books
 - Sign-Up is beginning due Jan 20th
 - Program will run Jan 27 - March 10
- One Jefferson One Book - Charlotte's Web
 - The goal is to unite the community around reading a book
 - Reach kinder through 5th
 - Fill out survey by MLK Day so we know how many books to order
 - Opportunity for 1 book per family

Events - Jen Bullock

- Family Math Night Feb 18th 6:15-7:30
- Registration details will come out in next week's Tiger Beat

VP of Fundraising/Social Events – Laura West and Jackie Messina

- You Are Loved Yard Sign Campaign/Fundraiser
 - Keep an eye on the Tiger Beat
- Eat and Earn Feb 11th @Kilwin's
- Would love feedback on Trivia Night to see if there is an interest in hosting another
 - Raised a little over \$1200 total for all 3 events
 - There is a lot of positive responses so we will look into continuing

Treasurer's Report – Meredith Vogel

- Approved fundraising goals are still expected to be followed through
- Approved by Dr. Podraza, PTA Council & the BOE
- Goals weren't fulfilled due to the closure of schools
- Fundraising goals carried forward from 19/20
- Adjusted our budget to account for fundraisers that aren't able to occur
- Dot N Dash Kits no longer needed - new vision for the library programs due to changes in staff
- Library Furniture - will be covered by district
- Stylus pens for all students have been added
- Headphones for students on free and reduced lunch
- **Motion to approve the adjustments to the budget and updated fundraising goals as described by Meredith Vogel- 1st by Cathy Dykes - 2nd Becca Harpster**

NEW BUSINESS

Mission of the PTA - Meredith Vogel

The Mission of the Jefferson PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Can we add an item to next month's agenda to look at how we as a PTA can advocate for our children in the midst of this pandemic and explore ways to partner with the parents, teachers, union, administration, BOE to reopen schools 5 days per week?

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Kanako Shuaipaj, 2nd by Kathy Fromm