



Jefferson PTA General Meeting Minutes May 9, 2023

Participants: 5th grade teachers (Mr. Greleki, Mrs Ferris, Mrs Schluter), Erin Arquilla, Lauren Tauchen, Yvette Kirchhoff, Val King, Gina Lascody, Kara Johnson, Meredith Hardt, Sara Roberts, Erica Phillipi, Yvette Kirchhoff, Joanna Apostolou, Brian Kohler, Jenny Grimm

- **Welcome and Call To Order** – Meredith Hardt
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Reading and Adoption of [April Minutes](#)**- Kara motioned to approve, Val seconded motion
- **Teacher Presentation**- 5th grade teachers share the following:
 - Outdoor Ed - kids had a great time; learned to start a fire, cool game of tag, loved the food
 - Indoor Ed - for the kids who opted out of Outdoor Ed they had activities at school and participated in team building activities; geometry scavenger hunt, treasure hunt, butter making
 - Safety Patrol party - next week
 - Candor Health is coming for 5th graders next week
 - Practice using a combination lock
 - 5th graders run field day - all are excited about that
 - Kindergarten buddies has been a big success
 - Question - Is there more homework in 5th grade? It is mostly math practice and depends how heavy the content is presented in the class that day.
- **Principal's Report** – Lori Sweeney
 - Staffing Update
 - Going forward Mrs Sweeney will share all staffing updates in May
 - Part-time: Mrs. Ward-leaving to go to a new school
 - New full-time Assistant Principal will be hired for the next school year, at time of the meeting no one is officially hired.
 - Tech Assistant - will be split between two schools
 - 3rd Grade Update - next year it is moving to 2 sections: Grote/Riemersma (Darley - taking one year leave of absence)
 - Mrs Sweeney shared the following:
 - Jefferson has supports in place to benefit the kids
 - With the new full-time Assistant Principal being hired there will be more opportunities to coach/support teachers:
 - Currently the AP largely manages SPED program.
 - A full time AP will be able to support classroom teachers more
 - Support services also wrap around in the classrooms which will provide additional supports
 - District current classroom size number thresholds:
 - K - 25 kids max/classroom

- o 1st and 2nd - 27 kids max/classroom
 - o 3rd - 5th - 29 max/classroom (so for Jefferson the threshold needed is 59 kids to get 3 sections)
 - If exceptions are made for Jefferson there would be implications across all of the district to ensure equitable resources for all
- Open discussion/Questions:
 - *Where are the kids stacked against other kids in district, state, against the other kids in prior years? A: Will need to look into test scores, knowing that with COVID, test score results might be hard to compare (we administered assessments on a different schedule in the past).*
 - Other schools within the district have sections open/close based on class sizes more frequently
 - *Is behavior taken into account? There have been quite a few behavior issues in this particular class.* Mrs. Sweeney shared there is some maturity as kids move from 2nd to 3rd grade (and every year).
 - When asked who Mrs Sweeney spoke with about her concerns regarding moving to 2 sections - she shared she spoke with members of the cabinets (including Katie Lyons, and Chris Whelton and Dr. Kevin Rubenstein)
- *How did we get scores across all of the district to compare schools?*
- *Question if the number of kids in REACH is the same as in past years?*
- Comments were made regarding teachers giving more transparency for parents and more homework.
- *Question around teacher absences A: Teachers have protected days off per contract to use days as they need them. Jefferson has two permanent subs in the classroom which helps consistency.*
- *How are the classes organized - so we divide up kids with challenges and special learning needs. A: this will be reviewed as part of the class formations for next year*
- Next steps:
 - Share above feedback w/Katie Lyons tomorrow.
 - o REACH enrollment?
 - o How can we get information on test scores for how the second graders are doing - both from across the district and compared to past years?
 - What are the student/teacher ratios in other districts? Chris Welton - demographic study on enrollment. Will see if we can get additional information.
- **PTA Board Reports**
 - o VP of Membership – Gina Lascody
 - o VP of Programs – Cynthia Mares
 - End of Year Picnics
 - o VP of Events - Jill Bissell
 - Spring Dance- need volunteers, (thank all prior volunteers and chairs)
 - o VP of Fundraising – Cathy Dykes and Erica Philippi
 - Pool Party will not take place this year
 - o VP of Communications – Valerie King
 - o Recording Secretary – Sara Roberts
 - o Treasurer’s Report – Kara Johnson
 - o President’s Report & Correspondence – Meredith Hardt
 - Kindergarten Playdates, Welcome Event, Parent meet-up are scheduled
 - Ice Cream Social, Meet the Teacher
 - 8/16 - the day before school starts

- Kindergarten used to do the day before the ice cream social, may bring this back
- **New Business**
 - Vote on 23-24 Board nominees
 - Events- Jill Bissell
 - Programs- Mina McMahon
 - Fundraising- Val King/Jen Wilhelm
 - Treasurer- Michelle McCarthy
 - Membership- Erica Phillipi
 - Communications- Jen Schneider
 - Recording Secretary- Cathy Dykes
 - President- Meredith Hardt
 - **Sara motioned to approve the new Board slate, Gina seconded motion; all in the room voted in favor.**
- **Next General PTA Meeting Date-** Thursday August 17, 2023, after drop-off in MPR
- **Adjournment at 8:50pm**