

Groveland PTO Meeting Minutes

Location: GPE Library

Date: 05.17.16

Time: 7:00 pm

Attendees: 23

Agenda Items

Review of "No Cuts for Kids Rally"

- Around 200 attended the rally at SPPS District Headquarters. Performers and speakers addressed the crowd outside the building. Thanks to all the Groveland families who showed up!
- **PTO President, Tiffany Dreher** addressed the board and superintendent during public comments at the meeting. Tiffany spoke passionately about the need for equity throughout all schools and the importance of elective/enrichment classes for students. Thank you.

Review of April Minutes

- A proposal to apply for Restorative Justice Training was turned down by teachers. The teachers prefer to seek more Responsive Classroom Training. Teachers are working with FOG to determine if funding can be provided for this type of training.

Teachers' Goal Setting Conference

- GPE Teachers; Tasha Sambs, Jean Schaffer, and Diane Johnston explained a Groveland pilot program that will be implemented next year in which fall conferences will be moved from November to 29 Sept - 6 Oct. The earlier conferences will focus on setting and following through on social, emotional, and academic goals for each student. A discussion between families, students, and teachers will take place to determine the goals and the role each will play in meeting those goals.
- The earlier conferences will give teachers the opportunity to meet families earlier in the school year.
- Parents are hopeful teachers will also use the early conferences to get families signed up for the Student Directory and encourage them to participate in school events and organizations.
- Report cards will still go out in November and follow up conferences will be scheduled on the basis of need.
- Spring conferences, 23-24 March, will be an opportunity to revisit the student's goals and discuss class/report card performance.
- PreK conference schedules will not change next year. They will have their conferences in November and March.

Science Museum of Minnesota Opportunity

- **Parent, Marjory Bequette**, who works at the museum, presented grant based opportunities for our school to explore and learn from the RACE: Are We So Different exhibition on the science and history of race, including perspectives on schools and education.
- A variety of options are available for students, families, and teachers to utilize this thought-provoking and educational experience and range from small group to school-wide experiences.
- Marjorie would like to form a small committee to review the options and determine which grant would be the best fit for Groveland. **Contact Marjorie at**

bequette@gmail.com if you would like to help her shape this opportunity for our Groveland community.

Principal's Report

- Principal, Becky Pedersen thanked parent volunteers for the snacks and treats provided to teachers on Teacher Appreciation Day.
- Saint Paul Public Schools engages in a process of continuous improvement. At the school level, a major tool in the improvement process is the **School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)**. The SCIP is a strategic document that district schools utilize to identify annual improvement priorities at each school. To find out more www.spps.org/scip
- Through the **SCIP**, Groveland has a **Family Engagement Plan** that is organized into four impact areas; Welcoming Environment, Family Partnerships, Teaching and Learning, and Community Partnerships. Staff is working to increase family engagement through these four areas. Parent support is welcome. The draft 2016-17 Family Engagement Plan was reviewed by the PTO.
- **Budget for next year**, with the added Title 1 Funds, will bring the school a .88 licensed teacher to provide targeted support for students. This teacher will focus on reading and/or math skills. The position will be full time with .12 of this licensed teacher funded through the general education budget.
- Additional funding has also been provided for lunchroom support, supplies, 1 TA, and 1 Behavioral Specialist. We will also be retaining our 1 Social Worker and .5 Counselor for next year.
- Tragically, we will be losing our music specialist next year. Music is an important and vital education tool for students. Hopefully, someday, we will be able to bring it back to our school. As for next year, parents and staff are already working to explore alternative ways to bring music to our students.

A group of parents and staff met on Wed., May 18 to discuss some ideas for music in 2016-17 at Groveland. Below are some ideas discussed at the meeting:

- Several music enrichments possibilities (including residencies)
- Musical residencies will go with state music standards
- Musical residencies will reflect the diversity of our students
- Utilize class set of guitars (need to find a guitar teacher/enrichment)
- One possibility is Drum Line with Movement
- Next steps: Looking into the pricing of some of the possible residencies and feasibility of hiring people to do the residencies; setting up another meeting
- An email will go out when the date of the next meeting has been set. Due to the short timeline to the end of this school year, our next meeting will have to be within the next week or so. Please plan to join us if you were not able to attend the first meeting.
- Next year, our school will also have a 4/5 split class. Math for the split class may be taught by Title 1 Licensed Teacher to make differentiated curriculum easier to implement.

Upcoming Events

- **Parent Appreciation Breakfast** -05.19 will be 9:30am.
- **Track and Field Days** - 05.19 and 05.20 Parents can volunteer to run activity stations at the event for grade levels. Sign up via the Volunteer Spot link: <http://vols.pt/ocf49C> and if you have any questions, contact Mrs. Lamm at melissa.lamm@spps.org.

- **Groveland's Got Talent: Classroom Villages Open Mic Night Schedule:**
- K- Thursday, May 26th 6:30-8:30pm
- 1st- Wednesday, May 25th 6:30-8:30pm
- 2nd- Wednesday, June 8th 6:30-8:30pm
- 3rd-4th Grade- Friday, May 27th 6:00-8:00 pm
- **End of Year Picnic - 06.02** - This year an effort is being made to include a cultural program for families to enjoy. If you know a performer or group who might be interested in putting on an dynamic performance at our school please contact **Jean Schaefer** at jean.schaefer@spps.org

School Supply Kits

- School supplies can now be ordered this spring. Look for grade-specific flyers going out in backpacks soon. Order this spring and your kit will be ready for pick up at the Open House on Sept 1st.
- Questions contact 1st grade teacher, Tracy VanNatta at tracy.van.natta@spps.org

Volunteer Committee Needs

- **Our PTO is looking to fill a number of seats on our committees for the next year. Look for a detail of the opportunities in a flyer/email going out next week.**

To ensure our PTO is able to support the needs of our school effectively we need your support!

- Be the one who steps forward - our school depends on it.
- If interested please contact PTO VP, **Neha Lang**, at nehaup@hotmail.com

SPECIAL THANKS to Tiffany Dreher for serving as our PTO President this year. Her leadership was a great support for our school.

Thanks again to all who attended!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PTO MEETING IN THE FALL.