

Groveland PTO Meeting Minutes

Location: GPE Library

Date: 04.19.16

Time: 6:00 pm

Attendees: 27

Agenda Items

Principal, Rebecca Pedersen played a wonderful video of Newbery Medal winning African American writer Kwame Alexander's visit to Groveland. To view the video:

<https://spps.eduvision.tv/default.aspx>

Review of March 2016 meeting minutes.

Recap of Past Events

- Conference Potluck provided by Groveland families for teachers during conferences was appreciated by the staff.
- Book Fair on 3.18.16 raised over \$4000, including over \$2700 in new books for the school.
- Movie Night on 3.18.16 not as well attended as the previous Movie Night. Green Mill, although losing our order, did comp the pizzas and were very helpful in delivering the pizzas to the event as quickly as possible. PTO President, Tiffany Dreher would still recommend using Green Mill for future events.
- It was recommended that in the future the Conference Potluck, Book Fair, and Movie Night not be scheduled on the same night as it is difficult to recruit the number of volunteers needed to cover all the events.
- Apex Fun Run raised over \$25,000 for our school.

Current and Upcoming Events:

- **Parent Academy:** Is currently in session on Monday evenings at 5:30. Learn more about the district and how to navigate the system and support the success of your child's education. More info at http://engagement.spps.org/parent_academy_3
- **African American Affinity Family Group** - will meet on 4.20.16. (Time will be given at this meeting to the Principal Pedersen to discuss school wide budget matters.) This group promotes a more diverse and inclusive community narrative throughout our school's curriculum and events. The group would like increase support of early struggling readers. Noting that literacy support will help reduce the achievement gap and provide support to the classroom.
- **Classroom Villages will be putting on Open Mic Nights for each grade based on volunteer participation.** This is in lieu of the Talent Show. Parents interested in helping ensure their child's grade has an Open Mic night should contact Neha Lang at nehauphotmail.com
- **Teacher Appreciation Day** - 05.03 - Two parents have a teacher breakfast and gifts planned. To help contact Chair, Abby Heuckendorf at agrodin01@gmail.com
- **PreK/K/New Student Orientation** - 05.12
- **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.

- **End of Year Picnic** - 06.02 (Planning Meeting 04.27 at 4:10) - 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 a dynamic performance at our school please contact **Jean Schaefer** at jean.schaefer@spps.org
- **Volunteers will be needed to support all upcoming events. Look for email signs ups through Volunteer Spot.**
- **S- Term (Summer School)** - Is offered to students. There will be 2 sessions available during the summer. It is not too late to register. Find out more at: <http://summer.spps.org/>

Volunteer Committee Needs

- **Our PTO is looking to fill a number of seats on our committees for the next year.** There are many opportunities available. Be the one who provides the much need support our school depends on to thrive. Find out more at the next PTO meeting. If interested please contact PTO VP, **Neha Lang**, at nehaup@hotmail.com

Open House 2016-2017 will be held the Thursday before school begins on 09.01

Restorative Practice (RP)

- RP in schools are based on restorative justice principles instead of punishment. They aim first to build classroom communities that are supported by clear agreements, authentic communication, and specific tools to bring issues and conflicts forward in a helpful way. They provide specific pathways to repair harms by bringing together those who are affected by misbehavior in a dialogue to address concerns, achieve understanding, and come to agreement about setting things right. In addition to serving the cause of fairness and justice, restorative approaches make safer schools and contribute to social and emotional learning.
- Starting in 2016-17 school year, a school can choose to be designated as a RP School. Funding, training, and staff are meant to be provided by the district to the schools chosen to be designated as a RP site.
- Groveland parents expressed support in bringing RP to our school. Teachers at Groveland, with the support of parents and our principal, will need to present a united effort to apply for this designation. 1st Grade teacher, Diane Johnston, will make an effort to inform Groveland teachers of this program and invite an informed speaker to the staff meeting on 04.26 so the staff can understand the program. If there is a consensus amongst teachers to bring the program to our school, the PTO will assist them in the application processes.
- **There is a tight deadline as the application is due on May 01st. This process is competitive. Of all the schools that apply, only 6 schools will be chosen to receive this designation. So an effort must well focused and supported.**
- Learn more about RP at the SPFT website: spft.org/restorative-practices/
- As an alternative, Responsive Classroom (RC) is another approach that gives teachers the tools to create an environment that engages students and potentially decreases behavioral issues. Principles of this approach have been implemented in Groveland Classrooms in the past. Funding for further RC training may potentially be funded by Friends of Groveland if RP is not funded at our school.

2016-2017 Budget

- **Principal, Rebecca Pedersen, provided an overview of the 2016-17 budget. A SPPS video explaining this year's budget breakdown was viewed. To see the video visit:** spps.org/Page/21986

- District site overview of the budget:
https://businessoffice.spps.org/uploads/school_budget_presentation.pdf
- Summary of Groveland's 2016-17 Draft Budget:
[https://groveland.spps.org/uploads/budget - pto groveland 2016-17 pptx.pdf](https://groveland.spps.org/uploads/budget_-_pto_groveland_2016-17_pptx.pdf)
- **Groveland has been selected to receive Title 1 funding for the 2016-17 school year.** This will mean an additional \$87,550 for our school. This is a targeted assist which means the money can only be used for specific expenditures that provide support to a specific demographic. Parents discussed the need for utilizing the funding for Teaching Assistants, Social Workers, and Counselors.
- **Due to a what the district is calling a 15 million dollar district wide budget shortfall, schools will lose their PLC time in which teachers work collaboratively to plan curriculum and support for students.** The effect to Groveland is the potential of losing one of the following specialist programs: science, art, or music. Principal, Rebecca Pedersen, may be sending out another survey this week to ask the Groveland Community to rank their interest in offering these specialist classes.
- The current draft of our budget provides Groveland with a .38 Library TA up from this year, yet only provides for .5 Social worker and a .5 Counselor (down from last year)
- The DCD (Developmental Cognitive Disabilities) program will be implemented at Groveland next year. The program will bring with it funds to support the staff required to run the program.
- A survey was sent out over the weekend to gather information on the educational priorities of our families. Because the budget was not out at the time the survey went out, some parents wondered if the budget information now available would help them make more informed decision on their survey. Another survey may be sent out to give parents another opportunity to present their priorities.
- **Impassioned parents would once again like to rally our community and our broader district community to address the board and potentially the legislature regarding our strong desire to keep all the precious specialist time our students currently receive. Cutting PLC (Professional time, at this stage, is just a proposal. We encourage all of you to write letters to the school board and our legislators.**
- **To show your support for our specialist programs, please join us at the next School Board meeting next week on Tuesday, April 26th, with Open Comment period at 5:30 pm, at the SPPS District Headquarters 360 Colborne Ave, St Paul, 55102 (Arrive by 5:15 pm)**
- Please contact Tiffany at tiffany.dreher@gmail.com or Neha at nehaup@hotmail.com if you would like to address the board at the meeting.

Thanks again to all who attended!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PTO MEETING on Tuesday, May 17th from 6-7:30 PM