

## PTO Meeting Agenda: March 14, 2019

### *Groveland PTO Meeting Norms:*

- ❖ Start and end on time.
- ❖ Foster an environment of respect and listening.
- ❖ Offer your opinion and welcome challenging viewpoints while assuming positive intent.
- ❖ Expect and accept non-closure.

### **1. Welcome and Ice breaker activity (6:00-6:10)**

Thank you for coming! Please share your name and ages of children, as well as one awesome thing that happened in your child's classroom recently.

ATTENDEES Sarah Murphy(PTO), Karl Talcott(PTO), Heather Allison(PTO), Kerry Furtney(PTO), Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson(PTO), Talia Sheldon-Desjardins(PTO), Jen Schlueter(PTO), Becky Pederson(GPES Principal), Tracy Van Natta(GPES 1/2 Gr), David Weigratz, Adeel Ahmad, Doug Gaplicki, Angie Feigal, Rob Clarksen, Sarah Craig, Hrithik Govardhan

### EXAMPLES of CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES WE'VE HEARD ABOUT FROM OUR KIDS, etc.

Angie Feigal (Mateo - Norenberg): Reading, APEX Fun Run

Tracy VanNatta Achieved some classroom goals; reading goals, got Donut Day, "Tent Town", Midwest Food Connection guest who brought whole foods, root vegetables, stew

Sarah (Oliver - VanNatta)

Hrithik (Hyatt) Pasta making, bracelets

Adeel: Compliments

Rob (Delany - Johnson) Bracelet, book fair excitement

Talia (Willa - Johnson) Really into the MyOn Reading competition, enjoying the Midwest Food Connection

Heather (VanNatta) Midwest Food Connection, Reading all day

Jen (Lisch, Hyatt) Technology archiving and communication tools; GoogleDocs, SeeSaw

Charlotte (William - Johnson) Black History Month finished up, Women's History Month

Becky - Living History Project, Final Four build up with the MyOn Reading website, in it initially

Kerry - (Simon - Johnson), Pajama Day upcoming

Sarah - (Henry 1st, Nora 4th) Kids attended the Living Museum

David (Fogelberg)

Doug (Oliver - Fogelberg) Really liked Fun Run

### **2. Vote to Approve February Meeting Minutes and Today's Meeting Agenda (6:10-6:15)**

February meeting minutes are available at: <https://www.spps.org/Page/35621>

MOTION TO APPROVE FEB 2019 MINUTES: Heather Allison 2nd: Rob Clarksen

MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 2019 AGENDA: Jen Schlueter 2nd: Doug Gaplicki

### **3. Groveland Multi-Age Classrooms - Follow-up (6:15-6:30)**

Teachers from the 1st/2nd mutiage attended in Feb. to gather parent feedback. Parents were overwhelmingly positive about multiage this year. This is a chance to hear updates on plans for next year.

Ater the teacher feedback, we wanted to revisit this: Met with the (1st/2nd, 3rd/4th) teachers who would be affected, and here are some points that were shared, ideas floating around:

-Add  $\frac{3}{4}$

Heather: Parents loved all the advantages, shared those thoughts, teachers shared views, concerns: Tough to manage some of the “big jumps” academically, all the prep that can be necessary to pull it off successfully. Some factors yet with the specialists (Ms. Van?)

Tracy: They enjoyed the leadership skills that come with this, also, combining the groups allow for dividing the behavior issues between more groups (4) for a dispersion effect, and also distribute potential leadership more broadly. Things flow, curriculum-wise

Doug: Are there other Elementary schools in SPPS that we could compare to:

Tracy: Only Montessori, but there is a consulting teacher from a Woodbury school that is ALL multi-age with several years under their belt, and they are willing to be a consulting resource.

Becky: Expo used to, but discontinues it

Tracy: Yes, they tried 3 grade levels together.

Angie: How do you develop a (e.g.) reading curriculum? Do you have to teach it twice? Do they get grouped by ability?

Tracy: Last year, after parent consultation, and some buy-in, we were able to accommodate requests. This year, we did the planning and asked the parents to trust us to make the best judgement for the children. There’s layering that goes on individually after a whole-group lesson typically.

Jen: Math is the only subject that you break out seperately?

Tracy: Yes, we don’t want there to be “holes” in their knowledge, as with Reading, kids are always welcome to try things above their level, even if their lesson is still at grade level.

Becky: There's some concern about social/emotional differences in the 3rd-4th combo, and the other factors (budgets, enrollment, due at the end of the month) will give us a better picture, so it's still a bit early now to look at exact plans.

Tracy: To have it work in  $\frac{3}{4}$ , the Maths would have to be split out, it's just too difficult.

Becky: It all takes so much planning time, this year's  $\frac{1}{2}$  teachers really wanted to do it, and have had a good time with it.

Jen: What about the 3 4th grade classes?

Becky: Most likely we'd stay at 2 5th grade, but there are so many variables and it's still too early to tell.

Rob: It has been talked about here that it's a potential marketing point that can assist in helping enrollment growth.

Sarah: Can we maybe expect some more ideas and numbers by next

Doug: Maybe a long-range planning aspect, putting an 18-month plan, a roadmap to get to some type of endgame in place?

Becky

Tracy: Would it help that Placement is aware

NOTE: During meeting with Jackie Turner and Janae Williams from Placement Office, they specifically mentioned that multi-age classrooms were a potential way to help mitigate losses to student population, adding some flexibility. Is this actual potential, or are they just saying that? How to inquire/push?

David: Room for a new committee, focus group.

#### **4. Groveland Messaging (6:30-6:45)**

In January we discussed ways to grow enrollment. The idea of a standard message about what makes Groveland special was suggested. This could be used on school tours, brochures, anytime we talk to prospective families, etc. Break into small groups and jot down ideas, share with group.

**ACTION PLAN:** Forming a new committee?

Growing Prospective Student Numbers Ideas:

- (Tracy) Waffle Man Fundraiser -Emphasize the Centennial celebration in all future communications/meetings/long-range planning,
- Participate in: Grand Old Days, Highland Fest,

- Take out ad in Villager (would cost about \$400)
- Door-to-door efforts similar to what worked during the Get Out the Vote effort around the referendum

### 5. Upcoming PTO Events (6:45-6:50)

- A. Family Social Event - Tomorrow! Friday, 3/15, 6-9:00 at St. Paul Tap

Email said 6-9, but feel free to show up early!

- B. Scholastic Book Fair in the Library- March 19, 20, 21--Volunteers still needed!

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/grovelandparkelemschool>

- C. Meal for Parent-Teacher Conferences next week--please sign up to bring a potluck dish for teachers' dinner

<http://signup.com/go/LRzsfib>

Request for RECIPE CARDS!

Remember DISHES

GROVELAND RECIPE BOOK COMING! (Rob)

- D. Classes at Groveland Rec Center

New classes coming!

### 6. Fundraising Chairs Report - Heather Allison, Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, Jen Schlueter (6:50-7:00)

- A. Apex Fun Run - Recap \$14,700+\$1500 Hats off to JEN!
- B. PANDAmonium (Groveland Carnival) May 10 Things we need to borrow, and talents (see sheet!) (Tracy: Try KEY CLUB, at the High Schools)

### 7. Treasurer's Report - Kerry Furtney and Talia Sheldon-Desjardins (7:00-7:10)

See link to PDF copy

### 8. Principal's Report - Ms. Pedersen (7:10-7:20)

Make sure everyone knows that Library is closed temporarily.

### 9. Parent Comments - This is an open time to share ideas or questions. May follow up at the next meeting. (7:20-7:30)

Adeel: Let's re-visit the CommEd rep, get some action on next year's offerings thru meetings, interaction

Doug; Working on ideas to create a maker space and implement a program in the future.

## 10. Motion to Adjourn meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Doug Gaplicki 2nd: Sarah Murphy

**Please join us for the next PTO Meeting on Monday, April 22, 6-7:30**

**Please email [Groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com](mailto:Groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com) for more information about volunteering!**

Questions and suggestions are always welcome. Please contact PTO leadership--we'd love to hear from you!

Sarah Murphy, President [groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com)

Karl Talcott, Vice President [groveland.pto.vicepres@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.vicepres@gmail.com)

Kerry Furtney and Talia Sheldon-Desjardins, Treasurers [groveland.pto.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.treasurer@gmail.com)

Heather Allison, Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, and Jen Schlueter, Fundraising Chairs

[groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com)