

PTO Meeting Minutes: October 15, 2018

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 (6:00-6:05) (Sarah Murphy)

Thank you for coming! Please share your name and ages of children, as well as one topic you're interested in discussing.

- Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, Amy Geisler, Ben Lang, Jen Schlueter, Kerry Furtney, Tiffany Dreher, Adeel Ahmad, Talia Sheldon-Desjardins, Regan Fox, Erin Jude, Marjorie Bequette, Kathryn Wegner, Neha Lang, Becky Pedersen, Shanna Sether-Clarksen, Robert Clarksen, Hrithik Govardhan, Doug Czaplicki, Sarah Murphy, Karl Talcott, City Councilmember Chris Tolbert, Melanie McMahon (Tolbert's Aide), Brad Levenhegan, Carrie Asmus, Heather Allison

2. Vote to Approve September Meeting Minutes and Today's Meeting Agenda (6:05-6:10)

Motion to Approve Sept. Minutes: Charlotte 2nd: Neha

Motion to Approve Oct. Agenda: Heather, 2nd: Erin

September meeting minutes are available at:

<https://www.spps.org/Page/35621>

If you are curious about the Democratic Rules of Order, you can read more here: <http://www.democraticrules.com/tips.html>

To read the Groveland PTO Bylaws:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CgwA2r0ltzFbA-scNmf5XSWeKvGz2d-2BX6leeFj9U/edit?usp=sharing>

3. Meet the new Science Teacher and Counselor (6:10-6:20)

A. New-to-Groveland !!

Science Teacher, Mr. Brad Levenhegan

-19 yr. SPPS vet, degree in English Lit., been a musician, came to science because of farm background, switched to science and got MA at Bemidji St.

-Feel strongly about giving students a push into the world by developing an ability to check their thinking

-Inquiry-based education a strong emphasis

-In class there is a "team" of students formed who work together within some character assignments, a way of "game-i-fying" the learning environment

-Using electronic notebooks (

Q: How do you handle challenging kids?

A: Look at "how" someone knows something, continue to ask questions

Q: Can you give parents a copy of your 10-step methodology

A: Yes, can send a copy to PTO

TABLE 1

How young children participate in the practices (Worth and Winokur 2016).

K-12 SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PRACTICES (NGSS 2013)	EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOUNG CHILDREN MIGHT DO
Ask questions (science) and identify problems (engineering)	Notice, wonder, and raise investigable questions with support (science) and notice problems or needs that arise during their play or exploration (engineering).
Develop and use models	Make representations of their science observations and ideas in 2D (drawing and painting) and 3D (structures, collage); demonstrate what they did or observed during an exploration.
Plan and carry out investigations	Generate ideas for new ways to explore a phenomenon or topic; act on objects and materials in different ways or observe living things over time; make and record observations; incorporate tool use for exploration and data collection including digital tools.
Analyze and interpret data	Make comparisons; notice and describe similarities and differences; begin to look for and identify relationships and patterns.
Use mathematics and computational thinking	Use mathematics in data collection; use mathematical vocabulary to describe phenomena, make comparisons, and express relationships and patterns.
Construct explanations (science) and design solutions (engineering)	Make claims and generate ideas about how and why things happen the way they do based on evidence (science) and design and redesign a solution that solves a problem or meets a need (engineering).
Engage in argument from evidence	Compare and contrast observations, experiences, and ideas with others; share claims and evidence.
Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information	Document and share data, observations, experiences, and ideas; use books and digital media as resources; use new vocabulary to describe phenomena and findings.

Q: Kindergarteners learned how to tally using an alligator metaphor?

A: Always trying to remember to “teach like a pirate”, and apply

Q: How hard is it to “rebuild” the science program, how are we going to catch up the older kids?

A: It remains a process, and we’ll be working both in and out of school to catch kids up on materials, standards, content that they’ve lagged on a bit - some smart kids, and helpful parents, so together we can get there!

Ms. Carrie Asmus- Counselor (PT with Horace Mann)

-An 11-yr. Vet of SPSS

-Enjoying GPES, thinks it’s really nice

-Working on social skills with kids

-Been and will continue to be active with being proactive on behavior matters, establishing a common language of problem solving

Q: What's an ideal counselling situation in your mind?

A: A full-time per school would be best, as dealing with all the IEP's is challenging-

Q: Difference between

A: Christine has the opportunity to work at times with regular ed. Students, Special Ed. work half-time, Counselors can go into the classroom and have the training and licensing to lead more classroom activities in this area, in our case they work together to meet the needs and striking a balance.

4. Visit from St. Paul Ward 3 Councilmember Chris Tolbert (6:20-6:35)

-Trying to get to all the schools in the district (Highland, Mac-Grove)

-Looking alot at policy and how the city and school district are connecting on issues of programs, school start times

-Personally supports referendum, open to questions today, hasn't been necessarily part of the decision-making chain;

-Concerned with planning improvements to having safe routes to school, sidewalks where they should be

-Adding medians, crosswalks, sidewalk extensions,

Q: About safety: It seems that cars are not stopping, can we get flashing lights? Buses block views,

A: Will contact public works people and see what can be added, enforcement and sting actions can help; bike/walk to school days, having an adult outside at each corner, drop-off and pickup zones

Q: Snow removal, often there is a section of City property where the snow doesn't get removed in a timely manner

A: Can inquire of the Parks district

Q: At the Franklin School District they studied a solar-power initiative, any plans in this district?

A: City property, yes, not sure about SPPS, last year there was a study on how to better coordinate facilities efforts in many areas between the City and SPPS

Q: The before and after programs at Groveland Rec. are great, that's a life-saver for so many families

A: Good to hear, no plans to change that, and nice to know they're doing well; (Becky) The rec department is also adding more after-school classes and programming, which is helpful; also, the new BB court was a big hit

5. PTO Feedback break-out session (6:35-6:45)

A. Ideas from post-its collected at last meeting; discuss in small groups and share idea to the larger group

SHARING:

-TIMING! 6:00 is difficult, can it be later? What about parents who work mornings? Can we have them staggered so that they're at different times

-BRING PTO TO FAMILIES WHERE THEY ARE - At Carnival, Supply Drop-off night; maybe solicit feedback on specific events, surveys, “preview” before Movie Night,

-OUTREACH: Translation challenges, finding people at events they’re wanting to come to, Classroom Villages, be more casual in the effort, smaller settings can be more inviting,

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6. Past and Upcoming PTO Events (6:45-6:50)

A. Book Fair -

Sales of \$3600; going into classroom libraries and school library

B. Movie Night and Flu Clinic--Friday, November 9th, 5:30-8:00 (Vote on Movie)

SUGGESTIONS:

Coco

Zootopia

Kubo & 2 Strings

Secret Life of Pets

Ninjago

Benji

C. Garden Clean-up Event

Looking to have a volunteer event to have a spur-of the moment clean-up and trimming session; Rec Ctr. might know (“Molly”, Kindergarten parent, can steer people)

7. Groveland Family Directory update <https://groveland.me/> - Adeel Ahmad (6:50-6:55)

New Features:

-Grades, classes updated

-Calendar links

-Menu info

-expandable

-Lost and Found camera

8. Fundraising Chairs Report - Heather Allison, Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, Jen Schlueter (6:55-7:00)

A. Direct Drive

- **Red and Blue letters in student folders to reach out to families, friends**

- **Nov. 1 deadline (soft deadline, money accepted at ANY time)**

Q: Can there be an online setup? Easier with electronic payment and not as much cash around

B. Carnival (MAY 10th) update (Charlotte)

First planning meeting coming up in December, stay tuned!

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9. Principal's Report - Ms. Pedersen (7:00-7:05)

A. School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) go to: spps.org/SCIP

- B. Title I Compact - **Given out at Conference time, Grades 2/3/4, also includes SCIP goals**
- C. Staffing - T.A. for Special Education D.C.D. program (**Hired, has to clear background check**);
Title 1 hourly position (**Alice Williams**)

10. St. Paul Schools News (7:05-7:20)

- A. SPPS Referendum on November ballot <https://www.spps.org/referendum2018> (**Marjorie Bequette**)
 - Get out the vote! There will be a gathering at Marj's house next week (T23) , information coming; advanced registration for voting ends tomorrow;**
 - What about yard signs? (Facebook has a yard-sign group)**
 - Website comments can trend to the negative, especially when juxtaposed with the Trash Collection issue**
 - The Vote Yes group is the way to combine a message, do some door-knocking, phone-banking**
 - Social media options are available to help with the arguments**

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

- **-Community Ed classes were cancelled (due to lack of interest initially), now they're re-vamping and trying to come up with a different set of classes,**
 - **Need more variety, better information flow (did a typo lead to GPES being left out of the catalog?)**
 - **Community Ed. office says that certain thresholds may be being met, numbers falling**
 - **Can they come to a PTO meeting and talk/inform?**

Survey on Goal-Setting vs. Parent Conferences; (Neha) they seem early in the year for having a good look at students, more work and contact to utilize in evaluating and planning.

Mixed-Age Class is going really well

12. Motion to Adjourn meeting: Marj, 2nd Karl : Meeting Adjourned

Please join us for the next PTO Meeting on Monday, November 12th, 6:00-7:30

Events and Programs Sponsored by Groveland PTO

- ❖ Kindergarten/Pre-K Back-to-School Coffee Hour
- ❖ New Family/Kindergarten Pizza Party and Orientation
- ❖ Movie Nights
- ❖ Enrichments (Residencies) for All Classrooms K-5th Grade
- ❖ Author Visit
- ❖ 5th Grade Picnic
- ❖ Classroom Villages/Room Parents (Community-building events and communication network for all classrooms)
- ❖ Open Houses

- ❖ National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)
- ❖ Safety Patrol
- ❖ Artists and Writers/Science Fair
- ❖ Student Leadership Team
- ❖ Year-End All-School Picnic
- ❖ Classroom Teacher Grants
- ❖ Specialist Teacher Grants
- ❖ School Library Fund
- ❖ Groveland Garden
- ❖ Midwest Food Connection Residency

Volunteer Opportunities

- ❖ Artist and Writer's Fair planning team
- ❖ Pandamonium! Groveland Carnival
- ❖ Apex Fun Run volunteers
- ❖ Yearbook
- ❖ Volunteer Coordinator/Online Volunteer Sign-up
- ❖ Girls on the Run Coach
- ❖ National African American Family Involvement Day Coordinator
- ❖ Lost and Found
- ❖ Talent Show/Open Mic Night Coordinator
- ❖ Teacher Appreciation Week and Conferences Meal Planning
- ❖ Equity and Inclusion -Co-Chairs
- ❖ Groveland Tour Guide (for prospective family tours)

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

Karl Talcott, Vice President groveland.pto.vicepres@gmail.com

Kerry Furtney and Talia Sheldon-Desjardins, Treasurers groveland.pto.treasurer@gmail.com

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

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