

Groveland Park Elementary School

PTO meeting (caregivers, parents, guardians, staff)

April 19th, 2023 6:00-7:00

Address: Groveland Park Elementary School | 2045 St Claire Avenue

Logistics:

- Childcare available in cafeteria
- Attend in person (meet in Library) or via Zoom

Minutes Submitted by Erin Jude 06/06/2023

Agenda | Notes

Welcome and introductions (*Sarah Craig*)

Attendance: Bridget F, Ashley S, Betsy, Jessica, Ann, Emily K, Adeel, Erin A, Lauren, Trisha, Laura, Kate B., Sam, Sarah C, Lindsey L., Erin J.

Principal points: Hear from Mrs. Lightner (*Sarah Lightner*)

- Staffing: Adding a 2nd grade next year
 - o Ms. Brown (World Cultures) moving to 2nd grade
 - o Ms. Sambs moving to 4th grade because Ms. Bunnell is retiring
 - o Mr. Anderson moving to reading intervention – hiring a new 3rd grade teacher (*May 2023 update: Mr. Anderson remaining in 3rd grade*)
- New part of district plan: Well Rounded Education: Science, PE, 2 arts (Music and Visual art)
 - o World Cultures was funded by special Covid funds, however, the specialty but doesn't fit this Well Rounded Education requirement
 - o Adding visual art teacher in the 2023-24 school year (adding to PE, Science and Music)
- Staffing adds:
 - o .5 counselor
 - o 1.0 TA and Special Education
 - o Likely 1-2 more regular TAs
- Currently in the process of drafting the schedule for next year

- Creating class lists is a collaborative process – a parent survey will go out from Sarah L. soon about this
- Adding a survey to families leaving 5th before 5th grade (to get a better sense of why people leave Groveland)

Questions:

Will 1st grade continue to be large because of the other school closures?

- Not necessarily, however, the Ford plant area development could increase enrollment over time.
- PreK (2 rooms) is a solid source of new long-term families

Are we at risk for time change?

- Always, but no inkling of that now. They try to keep one late start school – Groveland is the only late-start in Area F

Pandamonium carnival update (Ashley Azar)

- We have about 39 volunteers right now – need more like 80
- Need a few more cakes for the cakewalk and stuffed animals/trinkets for prizes
- We have quite a few raffle items this year – similar to what was on the silent auction list for the Centennial – this is great!
- School of Rock is performing again, community business invited to have tables (if they have a table, they need to run a game)
- Food trucks are secured – same as last year

Fundraising update (Robert Clarkson)

- The Read-a-thon raised \$10k (\$8k net)
- This company has a 20% fee (way better than the 40% from Apex)
- The overwhelming amount of reading minutes was a great byproduct of the fundraiser
- Greater teacher involvement this year was very helpful

Suggestions for the future:

- School-wide incentive vs things that put younger kids against older
- A way to have one log-in per family (vs one for each child)

2022-2023 budget update (Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, Sam Southgate)

- Just under \$8K from Read-a-thon
- We are in a good cash position
- We have a lot of cash on hand right now due to needing to pay for the outdoor classroom when it is time
- Goal to keep less on hand at a time

Centennial project update (Erin Jude)

- We now have a dedicated person in Facilities, coordinating all work happening at Groveland
- In order to not compromise design of the classroom, it became clear that we would need to compromise on our timeline due to other Groveland projects in the work and it all needing to work together
- What has been agreed upon as a working plan now with Facilities:
 - o Summer 2023 - roofing project on the rec center that impacts the back of the school area in terms of water run-off
 - o April 2023 through End of Summer 2023 - accessibility consultant hired via an RFP process and an assessment with recommended plans to be completed. Accessibility assessment is to include how to dovetail with the existing outdoor classroom plans.
 - o Fall 2023 - putting finishing touches/tweaks on the outdoor classroom plan and getting the necessary paperwork in order for the grant/board approval/bidding etc.
 - o Dec/January 2023/2024 - bidding the accessibility project and the outdoor classroom project (2nd bid for outdoor classroom, as required)
 - o Summer 2024 - install the outdoor classroom and the accessibility improvements (including repaving the parking lot)

PTO executive committee nominations and voting (executive committee)

- Recommendation to add an Executive Committee position – Secretary position
- Exec Committee Elections
 - o Goal to have more co-roles to help split the time/work/etc.
- Proposed slate of officers:
 - o Co-Presidents – Erin Jude and Lindsey Low
 - o Vice President – TBD
 - o Co-Treasurers – Sam Southgate and Sarah Craig
 - o Co-Fundraising – Robert Clarksen (and possibly Trisha W.)
 - o Secretary – Anne Sinclair
- Slate at proposed was moved, seconded and unanimously approved

Open agenda (*Volunteer topics*)

- Camp Widji Committee Meeting – May 3
- Earth Day Celebration – this coming Friday
 - o Ann Hobby (butterfly migration) 3-5th grade
 - o Lifecycle of a milkweed
- Cargill grant of \$10K – something that sparks joy
 - o Teachers discussed and decided on a Fun Run for June 8 (tshirts, balloon arch etc)
- Track and Field Day – June 1
 - o Parent volunteers needed – sign up will go out in PandaPaws

Next meeting (*final meeting of the year*)

- June 7
- Budget meeting preview (will vote at first meeting in Fall)

Question: if an art teacher, do we need the artist residency funds for grade level teachers in the budget?

- Exec Committee will be looking at this and considering that, along with what to do about funding field trips and increasing support for Camp Widji to diversify funding