

Groveland Park Elementary School

PTO meeting (caregivers, parents, guardians, staff)

Wednesday, February 1st; 6:00-7:00pm

Address: Groveland Park Elementary School | 2045 St Claire Avenue

Logistics:

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

Minutes Submitted by Erin Jude 1/29/2023

Agenda | Notes

Attendance: Sarah, Lindsey, Charlotte, Sam, Jessica, Ashley, Bob, Anne, Rahul, Robert, Erin, Trish, Laura, Kate, Dan, Erin

Welcome! Share great things! (Sarah Craig)

Introductions and things we love about Groveland:

- Community (parents); kids all say hi to each other/know each other's names (child community/culture); quality of new and veteran teachers; the ice skating rink/sense of community; collaborative teaching staff that cares about each other as well as the students.

Principal update (Mrs. Lightner)

- It has been a bit of a rough return with snow days immediately after winter break. Things are falling back in place now.
- FAST testing is happening – a reading assessment that occurs three times a year
 - o Teachers met last Friday to discuss where to meet kids needs and how to collaborate on helping those that need help etc.
- HealthPartners food tasting occurred last week – very popular!
- 2nd-5th grade will be skating at the rink soon (if not too cold!) – great for all students to have this opportunity to learn! Parent volunteers are welcome – sign up info coming soon.

Teacher requests / Action items (Charlotte Hanley–Jacobson)

- Request from Music Specialist Greta Cina: 11 Ukuleles – about \$1,100 for instruments, bags extra strings. Seeking a one-time additional \$600-700 to add to her Specialist allocation (already dedicated in the PTO budget) of \$500.

- Charlotte proposed action item: Allocate up to \$700 for Ms. Cina for this purchase them
- Erin seconded and request was unanimously approved
- Request from 3rd and 4th grade teams: A 6 week residency (Brother Ghana) \$3500 total, which is \$500 over combined 3rd and 4th grade allocation combined (\$1500 per grade in the PTO budget)
 - Sarah proposed action item: Allocate \$500 more for 3rd and 4th grade combined for this residency
 - Robert second and request was unanimously approved

Budget Update (Sam)

- The Direct Drive generated about \$5,000 (a bit short of budgeted \$6900)
- Fundraising to address in the rest of this year
- We do need to replenish the funds a bit. Lots of cash on hand, but will be drawing down quite a bit for Centennial outdoor classroom project all at once.

Fundraising update (Robert Clark)

- Wish List Needs for Students
 - Occasional requests/needs from Ms. McCulley
 - Budget line item vs. drive at Pandamonium/other ideas
 - Perhaps consider a \$150 line item for these types of needs (snowpants, extra socks etc)
- Read-a-Fund vs. Apex Read-a-Thon – a fundraising proposal for Spring
 - Read-a-Fund raised \$5,645 in FY22 – 10% participation – this was the first year of Read-a-Fund and was coming out of pandemic years
 - Proposal to continue to grow this idea with Read-a-Fund (takes only 20% vs. much higher take from Apex and other fundraisers)
 - 4-6 weeks this Spring
 - Discussion: Broad support to stick with the Read-a-Fund vs. switching it up. Lots to be said for continuity. No trinkets and the reading aspect of it is appealing. Looking forward to getting the teachers/classrooms more involved.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Apex is offering to not do trinkets – would their good organizational skills outweigh the bigger take?
 - Value of sticking with new program for another year to build familiarity even with this information
- Teacher involvement is key to coordinate their own reading challenges, encouragement etc.
- Is this the major fundraiser of the year?
 - Multi-faceted approach – direct drive, carnival, spring fundraiser

- Suggested pop-up shop from students or other smaller things – this takes direct parent oversight

Pandamonium Carnival update (Ashley Azar)

- Date set! Friday May 12 5:30-8:00
- Food trucks, games etc.
- Feb 21 6:30pm - committee meeting in Groveland Library
- Volunteer!
 - Plan ahead to have grandparents attend, you volunteer etc. This takes a LOT of people to run and make it successful.

Groveland Centennial project update (Erin Jude)

- We now have a directed contact in Facilities at SPPS assigned to work with us – Charlie Colvin
- Information continues to evolve around accessibility assessments that are very necessary to address the access issues into the school. This work has been pushed up which is great news – will need to integrate the outdoor classroom work with this work as it all impacts the same area of the school property.
- None of this will happen as fast as we all would like, but we are working to get committed progress on integrating these projects.
- The process is extensive to grant the district the money (from PTO), get required Board approval, vendor approval etc.

Subcommittee Requests (Lindsey Low)

- Equity and Inclusion Committee (contact Lindsey Low)
- Camp Widji Committee (contact Erin Jude)
- Notes re: Equity and Inclusion Committee
 - ADA assessment for all school sites – addressing the fact that there is no way for students in wheelchairs to enter the building with the other students. This issue is being elevated within the district thanks to parent advocate Jessica R.
 - Special Education Advisory Council Meeting – March 13 @ 360 Colborne – join if interested!
 - Access issues, facilities issues, -- parental impact on district special ed policy etc

Recruiting exec team for 2023-2024 (Sarah Craig)

- Will vote at next meeting – contact Sarah C if interested
- Hand off end of this school year / summer transition meeting
- 5 minimum positions (plus oversight of Pandamonium)
- Will be great to get newer families involved for continuity purposes

Open agenda - NA

Conclusion

Looking ahead:

Plant Sale – coming soon, stay tuned!

Ice skating party (Tentative Feb 24th)

Spring Fundraiser Event (details to be announced) – Read-a-Thon

Pandamonium (Friday, May 12th)

Parent/caregiver fundraiser event (to be determined)