Groveland PTO Minutes – February 10, 2020

Present: Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, Becky Pedersen, Jen Schlueter, Karl Talcott, Heather Allison

1. **Welcome & Introductions**: Introduce ourselves, our kids, their teachers; share one memory from our OWN Primary school years that we hope our kids will also experience
2. **Vote to Approve November Meting Minutes & Today’s Meeting Agenda**: Charlotte moves to approve, Jen seconds; passes.
3. **Recent events re-cap**: Science Fair, Skating Party, NAPID
   1. **Science Fair –** great turnout, snakes were a hit! Program was different this year. In previous years science fairs depended on projects being done at home and brought in, this year the projects were done at school. 5th grade did interactive projects that all the other kids could participate in. Bakken Museum, a representative from 3M, the MN Herpetological Society. Open house took place before School Choice Fair meaning we didn’t have the chance to “market” a follow-up school event (i.e. Science Fair) but plenty of families who came to the School Choice came for tours. 4th Grade Science Choir were a HUGE hit! Dobson and Levenhagen were involved with the choir, brought a new level or performance-based music instruction to the kids and they did great!
   2. **Skating Party** – amazing turnout! Close to 200 cups of cocoa served; 4 large tubs weren’t enough, more for next year!
   3. **NAAPID** – Good turnout of families (approximately 111 people), drumming performance was great, the jumping over the drums was impressive! Kids were engaged and good listeners.
4. **Principal’s Report**: Census 2020 – April 1st is Census Day
   1. Becky showed two short films:
      1. We Count Minnesota discussing how the Census works and why it’s important.
      2. SPPS District Presentation: The census is counting every “resident” in a household, not every “Citizen” and determines how federal funds are distributed as well as seats in the US House of Representatives; we could lose a rep to Colorado due to population shifts; MN has been undercounted by nearly 1 million people. School lunch, Head Start, School Breakfast, Special Education Grants, Title 1, are all affected by the Census count. All information collected is confidential for 72 years. Everyone counts, even those living in the household temporarily or if pregnant, that baby can be counted.

A copy of the presentation can be found [www.Spps.org/page37991](http://www.Spps.org/page37991)

* 1. Discussion followed around why some people might be worried about the census (immigration status, etc.). Don’t want to lose our US Reps or Federal funding for the school.

1. **Fundraising Chairs Report** - Charlotte & Jen discussed upcoming Punch Pizza Night, spring plant sale through Gerten’s, APEX, Pandamonium
   1. Becky discussed needs of the school:
      1. **A request for $10K for materials & field trips has been made**. School gets $32K for Materials (paper, copier ink, lease & maintenance, copies = $1k/month even through the summer (gets leased over the summer), textbooks (math books) $5K from Groveland, unpaid lunches - $600, tape, staples, signs, office supplies, need new computer in the office (comes our of Groveland budget while staff’s computers come from the District), wet wipes for nurses wipes, beginner books for classrooms - $1K per small box, kindergarten teachers copying in summer can rack up $kks by fall, Ipad subscriptions & cleaners). How much would Becky need if we were to create a PTO line item for “Materials”, etc. $10K for supplies & fieldtrips, $1200 unpaid lunches. These gaps are offset by TA staff (i.e. library, behavior specialist, etc) – enrollment numbers could be used against that as well regarding funding the behavior specialist position. Maybe increase fundraising aspect of Pandamonium (include more pay-to-play activities).
2. **Treasurer Report** – Not Present to report
3. **Parent Concerns:** 
   1. **Cognitive Testing**: Parents wondered about the history of Gifted & Talented program here at Groveland. Ms. Hyatt used to do the Pull-Out Program – kids who tested at a certain level would get bunched together to go do a separate enrichment project. The research has now shown that it is not as good to pull out kids and separate them and instead to build the enrichment into the existing class curriculum. State law and policy makes the schools individualize gifted and talented programs in the curriculum (i.e. math enrichments, reading is now at their own level so it wouldn’t make sense to pull them out for that). By middle school they’ll be self-selecting and/or encouraged to do a higher level of math, etc. If a child has tested high, they should be receiving an additional enrichment in their class and the ability to apply for Capitol Hill. ¼ or 1/3 of our Groveland kids have traditionally tested at the level that they could be eligible to go to Capitol Hill. How do we keep families from leaving Groveland? How can we better frame messaging about the fact that kids are getting the individualized learning they could benefit from if testing at those levels.
   2. **Traffic Concerns**: The cones are working to help with traffic issues. An invitation to join the Transportation Committee has been extended to a Groveland parent to better ensure the conversation continues around safety measures around the school.
4. Move to Adjourn Meeting – Heather made motion, Becky Seconded; Passed