# Groveland Park Elementary School

# PTO Meeting (caregivers, parents, guardians, staff)

September 28th; 6:00-7:00pm CT

**Address**: Groveland Park Elementary School | 2045 St Clair Avenue

**Logistics:**

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

**Minutes Submitted by Erin Jude 10/3/2022**

**Attendees:**

In-Person Attendance:

Laura, Dan, Kate, Sarah Lightner (Principal), Erin R, Ashley, Bob, Anne, Rahul, Erin, Ryan

Online Attendance:

Zaytun, Bahrey

Executive Committee:

Sarah Craig (Co-President); Lindsey Low (Co-President); Erin Jude (Vice President); Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson (Co-Treasurer); Sam Southgate (Co-Treasurer)

**Agenda:**

**Welcome and introductions (*Sarah Craig*)**

**All about PTO, snapshot of upcoming school year events (*Lindsey Low*)**

* PTO is an all volunteer organization - parents/caregivers and teachers/administrators
* Goal: build a welcoming community and foster additional opportunities for the community
* Events:
* Teacher appreciation
* Oct 14 Pizza and Movie Night - gym and cafeteria (younger and older kids)
  + Trying to coordinate flu shot clinic as well
* Ice Skating Party
* Book Fair
* Pandamonium - school carnival
* Fundraisers to support PTO’s work
* Volunteer opportunities:
* Events
* Teacher appreciation - bringing food a couple times a year
* Book Fair
* Carnival Committee

**Principle Points: Hear from Mrs. Lightner (*Sarah Lightner*)**

* Groveland is almost at enrolled capacity - this is good news
  + Had to add a 1st grade last minute - welcomed Ms. Lee recently
* Fall assessments in literacy and math
* By Fall break, doing differentiated instruction for students
* Starting to think about field trips
* Assemblies are back - once a month
* 5th graders go to Widji next week - capstone trip returning after two years off due to the pandemic

Question: With three 1st grade classrooms, what will that look like next year?

Sarah: We always have attrition. With classroom caps – may have a split classroom or have to add or adjust (have capacity for three rooms of every grade).

The more people we have at the school the better for full funding/staffing etc.

Question: Will two full-day Pre-K rooms continue?

Sarah: We don’t know. We hope so but it is up to government funding and district decision making.

Question: 3rd graders now (were K at start of Pandemic)

Sarah: Covid money: reading teachers (2)

**Centennial Project (*Erin Jude*)**

* Groveland turned 100 in 2021. We celebrated during the 2021-22 school year with a variety of student activities, a gala and it was the theme of our Pandamonium carnival.
* Fundraising last year was all with the intent of raising money towards an outdoor classroom (can read/see more at [www.groveland100.com](http://www.groveland100.com)
* Outdoor classroom was a community crafted idea with a heavy amount of input from the teachers
* Over $50,000 was raised, meeting our direct community goal. This was an incredible lift for a community this size! People are emotionally and financially invested this project.
* The project as it was developed - in its ideal state - is an $82,000 project for all of the hardscaping (vegetation would mostly be done separately).
* We applied for a $32,000 grant through the Neighborhood STAR program through the City of Saint Paul. Thought it was endorsed by both City Councilmembers and the school district and Capitol Watershed ($5,000 grant investment), the grant was not recommended for funding.
  + We are continuing to work with the city council members for some level of city investment in this project as it is heavily used property by the neighborhood.
* We are now setting sites on a Spring build (instead of Fall)
  + Gives time to consider in-kind, corporate, local business etc. funding to close the gap
  + Philosophically want to have funds raised so we don’t start a project we cannot finish

Question: Is there a line item budget for this project?

Erin: Yes. we are working with Earthwizards on this project. The $82,000 is more than

half boulders, rock and material. They are giving us a very good deal on labor.

**2022-2023 Budget review and approval (*Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, Sam Southgate*)**

* Each year we have to approve a budget - brief overview of our income and expenses:
* Expenses:
  + Enrichment - $10,000 per year (most times teachers don’t use this all each year, want to preserve)
  + Teacher appreciation (still looking for a volunteer leader!)
  + Pandemonium carnival (also raises some money)
  + Unpaid lunches
  + Field trips – looking to contribute a buffer to ensure coverage for families that cannot pay roughly $10-$20 to cover field trips (bussing)
  + Centennial project - outdoor classroom
* Fundraising:
  + One larger Spring fundraiser (Apex Fun Run, Read-a-Thon etc) - $10K hopeful
  + Direct Drive
  + Davanni’s Pizza Night
  + Gertens Winter and Spring fundraisers
* If all on track, ending the year with over $30,000 in the bank
* Charlotte proposed approval of the budget as presented
  + Dan seconded the motion
  + Motion approved unanimously

**Open agenda (*Volunteer topics*)**

* Volunteers still needed:
* Teacher appreciation
* Pandamonium Committee (Ashley Azar volunteered)
* Centennial Committee (especially fundraising and perhaps contractor knowledgeable)
* Artist and Writers Fair / open house – January 26
* Need to figure out how to do PayPal or other online giving (Erin set up first PTA PayPal in NY)
* Fundraising ideas/discussion:
  + Makers pop up store to promote entrepreneurial mindset and raise money for the school?
    - Sarah L suggested maybe it could be affiliated with a part of the Artist and Writers Fair since that is already something happening
  + Gala items / Groveland Gatherings were great
    - Ashley noted Groveland Gatherings were hard to fulfill - but maybe with time that would grow pack to how it used to be 10+ years ago
    - Brewery tours for adults and other things for adults were propular
  + 5th grade dance?
  + Public bus use for field trips?

**Conclusion (*Sarah Craig)***

* All of these ideas and the energy behind them is great
* Open invitation to reach out to anyone on the Exec Committee with other ideas and/or to volunteer for something specific
* One last call out for the Winter Gertens Fundraising which will open soon - a great opportunity for extended family and friends to order, raise money for the school and get their items delivered by their favorite Groveland student!