

Groveland Park Elementary School

PTO meeting (caregivers, parents, guardians, staff)

November 9; 6:00-7:00pm

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 1/29/2023

Agenda | Notes

Welcome

Minutes review/approval (All)

- Note: we do not have to approve minutes officially (via a vote)
- Minutes can be found on the [PTO section of the Groveland webpage](#)

5th grade to Widji – funding proposal (5th grade team)

- Paul Nelson and Jeff Sambs - 5th grade teachers
- The trip to Camp Widjiwagan has been a 5th grade tradition for 25+ years. Over 2000 students served.
- The original individual donor told administration (at the time) that the trip changed her son's life and they wanted to ensure that the trip continued for a long time.
- It is not an overstatement to say this changes kids. It helps them be problem solvers, caretakers, self-reflective...
- It takes 100+ hours of time by the 5th grade team to make the trip happen (plus time from the Principal, school nurse etc)
- There is a strong desire to be stewards of the funds provided – however inflation is making that very difficult.
- It is practice to have this trip be a pay-what-you-can model. There is a desire for every student to go, regardless of ability to pay.
- The budget for this trip is separate from the Groveland budget so that the school district cannot cancel it (in budget cuts etc.)
- Camp Widji is a progressive camp (open to the public from 6th to 12th grade getting to bigger and longer trips each year)

- The 5th grade arrangement with Groveland - and the 5th grade team - is part of a leadership training program (Groveland Bridge Program) feeding and diversifying this camp/leadership by getting students interested in 5th grade and getting them to return in 6th and beyond.
- Now, at the point of reflection on how to address the inflation issue and sustainability of trip.
 - Having conversations with the donor, PTO, school, YMCA
- Costs: 2005 \$ 8,456 and 2022 \$18,246
 - Camp fee very steady
 - Bus fee is the biggest (took only one bus in 2022 – same cost as one bus in 2019; chaperones drove themselves) \$11,250 one bus 2022 (driver cost is driving bus rental (not just gas prices)
 - Parents paid 6,800
 - Donor to pay \$12,000
- There is a need to diversify the funding.
- Is there a role in PTO in subsidizing some of the cost? Can the 5th grade team use their discretionary funds/teacher grants towards the 2022-23 Widji trip?

QUESTIONS:

- Are we locked in to bus company? We have to take a coach bus.
- Do we have any grant support or have grants been investigated? Teachers don't have time to look/apply -- (two parents spoke to experience and interest in helping with this)
- Another idea: ask parents to pay-what-they-can, which may include some parents sponsoring another spot (or paying more than the cost of the trip for their student)
- Have other camps been explored? Funder is heavily connected to Widji --- camp is looking to diversify programming and has long history here (Groveland Bridge program)
- Diversify funding is the most sustainable option.

CONSENSUS:

- \$1500 discretionary funding is fine for the 5th grade team to put towards the trip
- The Exec Committee will discuss the phase in of PTO funding at some level
- A PTO/parent Committee will explore additional funding source options (grants etc.)
- 5th grade team will meet with donor and Y
- Reconvene discussion at Spring meeting

Positive Behavior and Intervention Strategies PBIS (PBIS Committee)

- Mrs. Brown, Ms. Abualreesh, Mr. Levenhagen – 2022-23 Committee
- Promoting positivity at school
- New rules (replacing CARES) – simplified
- Expectation setting (for: classroom, assembly, bus, cafeteria, hallways/stairwells, restroom, playground)
- All areas formulated round three principles:
 - Be Safe
 - Be Responsible
 - Be Kind
- Hall passes have made a huge change and reduces classroom disruptions as well.
- NOTE: all gender-inclusive bathrooms in the next 3-4 years for Groveland.
- Reference: PBIS Committee's PowerPoint

Groveland Centennial project update (Erin Jude)

Outdoor classroom background:

- Site proposed is behind the school parking lot between the lot/school and Sargent Ave
- Designed with input from teachers - worked with EarthWizards on the design
- Over \$50,000 raise last year for the project/can be spent now. This would cover the hardscape of the design. Some additional fundraising will be needed, likely, for vegetation.

Where we are now:

- Seeking additional sources of funding – City Council, discounts on materials ETC.
- Working with SPPS Facilities on lots of coordination that is needed to grant the district the funds and to contract the project appropriately and in alignment with all district protocol.
- Goal is for breaking ground this Spring.

Principal report

- **Digital Learning Days**
 - This is practice for snow days, election days etc. More communication is needed / noted.
- **Gaga ball pit sand**
 - This is complete thanks to PTO funding and execution - yay!
- **Conferences** – sign up!

- Upcoming events:
 - Parents are Sexuality Educators: Dec 7th, 6:00pm, virtual
 - Kids Heart Challenge – December 16th. Kickoff November 28th

Open agenda (*Volunteer topics*)

- Accessibility discussion needed - slated for next meeting
- Pandamonium date set - May 12

Conclusion

- Adjourned