Groveland PTO Minutes – September 19, 2019

1. Welcome, Ice breaker activity, acknowledgements
2. Vote to approve May Meeting Minutes and today’s meeting agenda

Motion- Marjorie Bequette Second- Hallie Vote—May Minutes approved

1. Establish Group Norms for PTO Meetings
   1. According to Bylaws, meetings follow Democratic Rules of Order
   2. Share norms which will guide PTO meetings throughout the year—be nice, respectful, listen to others’ voices
   3. “After Session” – PTO leadership will stay after meetings to listen/discuss further with parents
2. What is Groveland PTO?
   1. How does PTO support Groveland: Connect- social opportunities, facilitating ; Contribute- time, funds at whatever level works for you, being involved to help; Advocate- work to support issues impacting school, e.g. traffic/pedestrian safety issues, rally to support “All are welcome here” idea
   2. PTO sponsored events, volunteer opportunities (see list)
   3. New this year: Parent/Caregiver Education Series (Erin Jude and Sarah Craig organizing)
      1. continuing ed for parents to bring people together, dialogue, bring in outside experts on various topics on issues of interest to families. This year will be a trial, first time we are doing this
      2. 3-part series this year
      3. October 1st 6:00-7:00PM, Groveland Library, childcare provided
      4. Prairie Care- Mental health in children, resiliency specifically
      5. Possible future topics—something related to money (saving for college, teaching kids about money, etc.); Racial equity as relates to children
   4. Classroom Villages – Katherine Wegner
      1. Group to organize social events, classroom volunteering, class events, build community across community
      2. Events with PTO support- last year ice skating, open Mic night, fall leaf raking event
      3. Looking for someone who would like to chair classroom villages, plan events and recruit parents to be classroom villages class parents
   5. Social Events Committee and Chair [Evolution of Classroom Villages idea?]
      1. Chili Cook-off in conjunction with PTO meeting October 21st- meeting held in cafeteria; have meal together while meeting, build community
      2. Family get togethers- family night out- have done throughout the summer- great way to get to know people- met at park, brewery, Can Can Wonderland, etc. Have been really successful and fun, want to continue.
      3. Centennial Committee – Groveland turns 100 next year – working with Ms. Pedersen on finding historical documents, planning celebration, etc. Please let PTO know if you would like to get involved with this committee.
      4. Gather feedback from group: What would YOU find valuable to discuss at PTO meetings this year?
3. Treasurer Report (Talia Sheldon Desjardins and Doug Czaplicki
   * 1. Teacher grants - $$ given to each classroom teacher and specialist, getting these out to teachers now
4. Fundraising Chairs Report (Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson and Jen Schlueter)
   * 1. Big fundraisers for the year
        1. Apex Fun Run – in February, Jen will head this up. Not just a fundraiser; 2 weeks of leadership lessons. We have a contract for this year, but plan to look into other options. It’s a great program.
        2. Direct Drive
        3. Pandamonium – Groveland Carnival – Kerry Furtney heading up
     2. Other smaller fundraisers
        1. Box Tops – Anna Kirkland
        2. Davanni’s pizza night (and possibly other restaurant nights)
        3. Scholastic Book Fair – Erin and Chris Kelsey
     3. Why do we raise money?
        1. Supplement gaps with extra programs; Artist residencies because we don’t have an arts specialist
        2. Grants for teachers to buy things for classroom
        3. Books for the library
        4. Field trips

Parent comment (Elizabeth Lake) – look at local businesses and think about corporate sponsors; PTO has done this for Apex, Carnival, but possibly not for Direct Drive?

Parent comment (Hallie) Matching gifts—reminding people that their employer may match donations

1. Principal’s Report – Ms. Pedersen
2. New staff this year [I’m sorry, I missed this, she went really fast!]
   1. Alice Williams – 3rd grade – taught Title 1
   2. Paul Anderson
   3. ??
   4. Rita Wright – clerk filling in now until new
   5. Antoinette Lavalla – now at Highland Senior High as a budget clerk, will be
3. New programs
   1. Science from Scientists – we were given a grant for this program (cost $10,000 and higher) – people currently working in science fields. We have a vet technician and a geologist. Come and teach 18 lessons to students in grades 4 and 5. This is in addition to Science classes with Mr. Levenhegan.
   2. MN Reading Corps – works with Regan Fox, Title 1 Teacher. We have 1 MN Reading Corps tutor working with kids in younger grades (K-2); Title I with kids in 3-5
   3. FAST – assessment tool for teachers; teachers receive training on how to help children with reading and math instruction - working with U of MN, get a lot of training for staff
   4. University of St. Thomas – we will be a model school for their teacher training program- will have more teachers coming to our school
   5. Have new phonics program that the district started
   6. 2 co-teachers; in room for entire year –
4. Additional Developments
   1. Parent question (Jen): What are our enrollment numbers this year?
      1. 437 projected last spring; we are about 20 students under this
      2. Had some kids going to Capitol Hill, some to new charter school-Northern Light
      3. Childcare came to Becky’s attention more than before – parents couldn’t find childcare to make this work –S’More fun is always full [Is this something PTO could work on?]
   2. Becky can’t find a licensed teacher to run EDL program (!)
      1. Won’t have Band/Orchestra or after-school classes
      2. Have parents who want to do Lego League program- parents would lead Lego League program from Randolph Heights possibly, bus students over there and run it through their
   3. We have new Assistant Superintendent- Andrew (didn’t catch last name) – instead of Efe Agbamu
   4. Parent Question (Talia): Do you anticipate budget cuts this year due to lower enrollment? Becky: I asked Andrew (new asst sup for our school) and he doesn’t know yet, possibly
   5. Parent Question (Jen): Saw there weren’t any Community Ed classes at Groveland this year. Becky: We will have Parks and Rec classes available at the Rec Cente

Parent questions

* + - 1. What’s up with the website? – needs to be updated – Becky- many challenges, need training and help, can parent volunteers help?
      2. Hrithik- suggestion- ask for volunteer for specific events rather than making it open-ended (Classroom villages feels overwhelming)
      3. Erin Jude- Groveland Facebook page – new- we have a Facebook Group so that parents can interact [add link here?]
      4. Marjorie- I want to plug the online directory- https;//groveland.me
      5. please go and update your info. Some people want a paper directory.

Movie Night – coming up on November 9 – free, in the gym, flu clinic same night, parents need to come with kids, very fun night

What movie?

October 1 – Family tree clinic Family Ed night

October 21 – Next PTO meeting and Chili cook-off