

## Groveland PTO Meeting Minutes

Location: GPE Library

Date: 01.13.16

Time: 6:00 pm

Attendees: 16

### Agenda Items

Review and approval of Oct 2015 meeting minutes.

Friends of Groveland (GPE PTO Fundraising Arm) Report:

- Christine Melchert, FOG Chair, reported money raised from the **Direct Drive** \$13,000 (expecting \$500 more in matches), **Give to the Max** \$1,000, **Celebrate Groveland** \$18,000 after expenses (same as last year), **Book Fair** \$677 plus \$600 in Scholastic dollars to be spent on more Scholastic Books, and **Davanni's** \$377.
- Groveland will launch a new fundraising effort this year with the **Apex Fun Run** ([www.apexfunrun.com](http://www.apexfunrun.com)). This is a pledge-based fun run. Apex organizes this fundraiser and will work with students to teach fitness, leadership, and community involvement during the weeks of Feb 16-25th. \$10,000+ is the amount we hope to raise from the Fun Run. The Run will be on Feb 25th. Students will run laps around the gym to raise money for our school. **All students participate in leadership and fitness lessons, regardless of pledges raised.**
- A grant was submitted in conjunction with the African American Affinity Group to bring **Newbery Medal winning African American writer Kwame Alexander** to our school. We will find out this week if we receive the grant. If awarded, Alexander will visit our school on Friday, Feb 19th to speak with 3-5 graders about his Newbery Medal winning book *The Crossover* and with K-2 about his book *Acoustic Rooster*. An effort will be made to get students a copy of these books before his visits. Parents will be invited to attend but space will be limited to the bleachers in the gym. Authors Cheryl Minnema and former Justice Alan Page were also talked about as a potential guest speakers.

### Principal's Report

- **School Choice Fair for Pre K and Kindergarten** was well attended. New location might have made it easier for more to attend. Parents of 5th graders are encouraged to take tours of the middle schools they are interested in since the Fair did not include middle school representation.
- **Panda Packet Distribution** was discussed. Since there is no way to confirm parents are reading the packets, changing the distribution date and time to Sunday night or Tuesday morning and creating a trackable link on the website were suggested as ways to help ensure parents read the packets.
- **There is strong need for a volunteer with basic Web skills to help update and revise information on our school website.** If interested please contact, PTO President Tiffany Dreher at [tiffany.dreher@gmail.com](mailto:tiffany.dreher@gmail.com)
- **School Budget** will be out in April. The budget usually comes out after Spring Break.

Newly Elected School Board Members are stirring things up with a new list of priorities.

Read more about it:

<http://www.startribune.com/change-candidates-take-reins-on-st-paul-school-board/364327311/>

[http://www.twincities.com/education/ci\\_29347523/st-paul-school-board-swears-4-new-members](http://www.twincities.com/education/ci_29347523/st-paul-school-board-swears-4-new-members)

**Prospective Family Open House is on Thursday, January 28th 6-7:30**

- Volunteers are needed. Contact Lori Goulet at [lori.goulet@spps.org](mailto:lori.goulet@spps.org) or Liz Olsen at [liz.olsen@spps.org](mailto:liz.olsen@spps.org) if you are interested in volunteering. Contact your teacher if you are interested in representing your classroom that night.

**Invention Convention is on the same night - Thursday, January 28th 6-7:30**

- Inventors are encouraged to submit their projects by Friday Jan 15th. Forms are available in the office or from science teacher Kiersten Wickenhauser.
- The Convention will feature student work as well as exhibits by Bakkum Museum, MN DNR, 3M, U of M, Lego League, MN Herpetological Society, Groveland Robotics Team, and DDS Dentistry.
- Check out Groveland Science work at the Science Blog Link : [groveparkscience.wordpress.com](http://groveparkscience.wordpress.com)
- Volunteers are also needed. Sign up through VolunteerSpot at <http://vols.pt/kdKPRO>.

Check out Groveland Science: [groveparkscience.wordpress.com](http://groveparkscience.wordpress.com)

Check out Groveland Student Art: [awesomepandaartists.wordpress.com](http://awesomepandaartists.wordpress.com)

**African American Affinity Group Leaders Daniel and Sarah Atunah-Jay** spoke about the group's mission to strive for the equitable representation of our diverse student body in our school.

- Sarah Atunah-Jay spoke passionately about the need to represent our school's diversity by holding events and having school materials available for our students that reflect diverse populations. Inviting author Alexander to speak at our school and making sure our Scholastic Book selections are diverse are just some examples of how this group is helping to create a more inclusive world at Groveland.
- AAAG provides a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for African American Families. All families interested in learning more about creating an inclusive environment at our school are invited to attend their monthly meetings.

**National African American Parent Involvement Day is on Monday, Feb 8th, 2016**

- Committee Chair, Daniel Atunah-Jay, spoke of creating an event for all families to learn more about African American history and culture. Drumming, poetry, art, and book readings are being scheduled for that day. *Each Kindness*, a book about anti bullying, is encouraged to be read before and at the event. Link to the book being read aloud. <https://youtu.be/uSTbLZqGGSc>

**Classroom Village Chair, Neha Lang**, reported on upcoming events.

- **An All School Skate Party will be our second school-wide Classroom Village Event Monday, February 8th, starting at 4:00** - Meet at the Groveland Park Ice Rink right after school on National African American Parent Involvement Day. Free rental skates are available at the Rec Center.
- Make sure your child's class enjoys the fun of being part of a Classroom Village by volunteering to be a Coordinator today! Interested contact Neha Lang at [nehaup@hotmail.com](mailto:nehaup@hotmail.com).

**iPad roll out was Jan 13th** All families must go through online iPad registration for child to be given an iPad. Please contact main office if you need assistance.

- Parents requested that iPads not be used during inside recess time.

**Box Tops Due Jan 29th** Cut them out along the dotted lines and return them to your child's teacher. Snuffy's will be rewarded to the class with the most Box Tops.

Thanks again to all who attended!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PTO MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH AT 6 PM**