

February 13, 2017

Present: Neha Lang, Sabrina Sutcliff-Gross, Kerry Furtney, Rachel, Ben Lang, Sarah Murphy, Heather Allison, Becky Pedersen, Tiffany Dreher, Marjorie Bequette, Kristen Swanson, Carrie Faust. And Wendy (a prospective parent).

Review Highlights of January Meeting Minutes - Approval Minutes.

As always, minutes are available before the meeting. Highlights discussed during this meeting were as follows.

- It may not be possible to reschedule the ice skating party; it will be quick notice if the weather cooperates.
- Decision was made last month to shift responsibility for the directory.
- Website has been updated and work will continue.
- No one has volunteered for school supply kit so that system will not continue.
- Superintendent survey. First one is reported out online. Second survey has just been released. First one was shared at a meeting last week and there was discussion about community engagement after three finalists were selected. Three finalists selected by board who don't consult with each other. Seems like there is a strong emphasis on community engagement about the process which is great.
- Kathryn Wegner is working on a Groveland parent group to advocate for public schools. Get in touch with her if you are interested.

Committees Overview

Brief review of committee reports included the following discussions:

Broad focus on inclusion and diversity at Groveland includes the Gathering the morning of 2/13, new signs in the windows, possibility of having a forum/community dialogue about inclusion, diversity, and engagement. Jessica McDonald is creating a Dropbox of photos of Groveland for private events (slideshows etc).

FOG (Friends of Groveland) - Fundraising Report.

Apex Fun Run (Dates, Goal, Volunteers, Corporate Sponsors)

- Run is on 3/9. Kids get sponsors for their run.
- Apex does leadership training ahead of time, two weeks.
- Over \$800 in corporate sponsorships this year. Looking for more, please contact Christine.
- Last year raised \$23K for libraries, enrichment activities. Aiming for \$20K this year.
- Need volunteers the day of the run. It's a lot of fun.

Need to fill positions for next year: open positions are as follows:

- Need a new Celebrate Groveland chair.
- Need a new Depositing Treasurer and Co-Chair.

Principal's Report - Becky Pedersen

Removed Doors Available.

Let Becky know if you are interested. She can get the hinges for you (they have been removed).

Could FOG sell them to a salvage shop? Carrie will check it out.

KaZoua Moua is our new part time clerk. Mornings M-F. 9:15-1:15. She speaks English and Hmong. Welcome to KaZoua!

Still have an open DCD position that has not been filled.

News and Events

Reimagine Minnesota - Recent event discussing a plan to create equity, integration, and excellence in education in MN.

Kerry, Heather, Neha, Rachel were there. Felt like a promising effort across districts to advocate for education. Diverse attendees. Facilitated by students. Interesting to see where it goes, how it will address systemic barriers to change. Discussions of decentering whiteness.

For SPPS, many teachers and staff did the training with Pacific Education Group and it's heartening to see this kind of work spreading farther.

There will be many sites having these conversations and they will be pulling this information together.

SPPS Board Meeting (Public Comment Period) -Feb 21st -

You can view the event (video feed) online if you can't go.

Calender, Agendas, and More Online at <http://www.spps.org/Domain/10382>

Committee of the Board Meetings - March 7th - Presentations and Information from Board. These meetings may be more informative than the "regular" board meetings, though they are long. Presentations have included: School climate, Parent advisory groups (Karen, Parents of African-American students, etc). This information is used to plan for the budget. They are board, staff, and very, very few parents (aside from the groups who came in for their presentations). These are not videotaped.

Superintendent Survey Search Results at <http://www.spps.org/Page/29723>

There is a new survey out too.

Review of Past Events

Prospective Parent Open House/ Artist and Writers Fair.

Feedback from a prospective parent: having the older kids around was great, they were able to embody the community spirit. Also seeing the school work and seeing the kids at the open mic night.

Other parents heard positive things about the event as well.

Kudos to the teachers who are involved in supporting the kids.

NAAPID (Nation African American Parent Involvement Day)

Context on the event for those who are interested:

http://blackmales.mpls.k12.mn.us/2017_national_african-american_parent_involvement_day

Programming today was fantastic. Kids were engaged with the quilter. They love Brother Ghana. Perhaps more parents here this year. Nice music selections and programming.

Community Action for Education

Governor's Proposed Budget Calls for a 2% Increase in the Per-Pupil Allocation for Districts

You may want to call or write your representative and senators and ask them to support this.

Parent Comments

Keep an eye on the Legacy amendment as well. This provides funding for things like second grade zoo school and subsidize many of the cultural organizations that engage our students.

Budget review at Board meeting: things are on track for this fiscal year.

Projecting a \$20M budget deficit for next fiscal year.

PTO final thoughts:

Environmental Thought:

Americans use 500 million drinking straws every day. To understand just how many straws 500 million really is, this would fill over 125 school buses with straws every day. That's 46,400 school buses every year! So next time you and your family are at a restaurant consider ordering your drinks without a straw.

Read more about being Straw Free at: https://www.nps.gov/commercialservices/greenline_straw_free.htm

Community Building Challenge:

Help broaden your child's friend circle by talking with them about a student in their class they may want to connect with but have not. Then take active steps to arrange a playdate with your child and that student.

Join us for the next PTO Meeting in March.