

# April 17, 2017

## Present:

Ms. Bunnell, Ms. Lamm, Mr. Hale, Ms. Pedersen, Kathryn Wegner, Kerry Furtney, Sarah Murphy, Heather Allison, Tiffany Dreher, Ben Lang, Marjorie Bequette, Neha Lang, Jessica McDonald, Phyllis, Sue Tomczak, Sarah Anderson, Carrie Faust, Justi LeRoe, Sabrina Sutcliff-Gross, Kristen Swanson,

## Review Highlights of March Meeting Minutes - Approval Minutes.

Notes from last time:

- Still considering a community forum on equity through the SPPS Office of Equity
- Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Schools: working on a campaign focused on the state education budget.

## Committees Overview

- a. Brief Review of Committee Reports: these are always available online
- b. There are many open positions in PTO/FOG. Please review list and contact [groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com) if interested in volunteering for one of these positions.
- c. PTO Open Positions: Vice President, Equity and Inclusion, Family Involvement Day, Gardening Committee (co-chair), Library coverage, Lunch buddies, Marketing, Talent Show/Open Mic night coordinator, Teacher Appreciation Week, Website (chair and co-chair), Yearbook (working with staff or working more independently),
- d. FOG Open Positions: co-chair, revenue treasurer, Apex Fun Run chair and co-chair, Book Fair co-chair, Direct Drive, Fall Fundraisers (see below), Groveland Gathering coordinators (especially good with a younger grade focus and an older grade focus person), Spirit Wear.
- e. Fall Fundraiser (Celebrate Groveland or alternative):
  - i. Multiple positions (leadership and more) are open for this event. Justi LeRoe is happy to share insights from previous years.
  - ii. Fall Fundraiser: teachers are interested in a fall carnival; Amy McDonald is happy to be the teacher contact for a carnival.
  - iii. A carnival is a good alternative to Celebrate Groveland; it will bring new families to the event. It will support many people donate a little bit and that will provide the income we need. It might be hard to do in the fall but could be connected with the art or science fair in the spring.
  - iv. The fall fundraiser could connect with Groveland After Dark. Raffle and Gathering Sign-Ups might work well with that event. But it might require more volunteers than we could provide.
  - v. Having a fair, plus a carnival, plus a prospective family event might be too many events for one night.
- f. Yard Signs: We are getting quotes for Yard Signs for Groveland.
- g. Open Mic Night: two nights this spring, K-2, 5/23. and 3-5, 5/30. Likely starting at 6pm.

## FOG (Friends of Groveland) - Fundraising Report

- a. Apex Update: still collecting pledges. We are doing above average on collecting pledges. We would like to collect 100% of the pledges to make our goal this year. We have \$2,700 yet to collect. We have earned a little less than last year but that is normal in the second year of an event like this.

## News and Events

- a. PTO Movie Night and Parent Teacher Conferences Potluck - Thank You to all Who Contributed!
- b. Earth Day clean-up for this Saturday, 4/22, at 9-11:30AM at Groveland, in conjunction with Girl and Boy Scout troops.
- c. Dr. Joe Gothard was selected as the preferred candidate for Superintendent of SPPS from Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District
- d. SPPS Board Meeting (Public Comment Period) -Tuesday, April 25th
  - i. Information: <http://www.spps.org/Domain/10382>
- e. Committee of the Board Meetings - Tuesday, May 2nd
- f. Report from recent Board meeting from Tiffany Dreher:
  - i. Superintendent Search: Board felt really good about the final choices; went with the candidate who had experience as a Superintendent already. He is relationship-focused, finding solutions. It felt like a positive process.
  - ii. Budget: they are planning for a 1% increase from the state right now. Even if it's at 2% (the governor's level) there will still be a deficit. Given all the reductions already planned, there will be a 2% reduction across the board. Budgets went to schools on 3/31 and will go back to the Board later this month. The Board will react to what they hear from schools and community.
  - iii. Demographic trends: At the presentation 2 years ago, they were projecting increased enrollment; this time they were projecting decreased enrollment. She is doing trend data from 2005 to now. The 2015 projections were too high. Metro Area housing has stabilized, but millennials are not having children at the rate expected, and out migration and opting for other choices are increasing. Over twice as many students are opting out of SPPS as in 2005-6 (about 4000 then, almost 10,000 now, SPPS enrollment is 38,000). About 39% of students are lost from K-12 per cohort. SPPS captures about 60% of school age children -- Minneapolis is a little bit lower; District 196 is almost 90%. Outmigration from grades 5 to 6 is big in particular. The Board engaged seriously with the data and seems committed to understanding what is happening.
- g. Preschool/Kindergarten Orientation - Thursday, May 11th. Volunteer Greeters needed. Please contact Principal Pedersen if interested. [rebecca.pedersen@spps.org](mailto:rebecca.pedersen@spps.org)
- h. Track and Field Day is on May 18-19. Many volunteer opportunities on the day itself or at other times, or just show up and help out. Please contact Melissa Lamm if interested. [melissa.lamm@spps.org](mailto:melissa.lamm@spps.org)
- i. Kickball parties are being planned for the end of the year for each grade, after school.

## Principal's Report - Rebecca Pedersen

- a. 2017-18 Budget Overview

- i. Video from SPPS provides an overview of \$715M budget for our 38,000 students, the kinds of funding received, the district priorities, and the process. <http://www.spps.org/Domain/10652>
- ii. Projected enrollment for the coming year is down: 471 (less than projection last year which was over 500; our enrollment is about 480 right now). The projection includes only 3 kindergarten sections instead of 4. All this is based on district planning to get optimal class size at all schools.
- iii. The district has requested that we not discuss specific budget cuts at this date because that leads to discussions of specific people at a school the size of Groveland.
- iv. We will have budget cuts at Groveland. We will have less money because of the low enrollment projections and budget cuts overall.
- v. In the past, decisions about the number of sections per grade were sometimes made at the site, but given the tight budget and enrollment projections, most of those decisions are made at the district level. Right now the projections look like we will have one fewer K section (and one teacher loss). Depending on future decisions, there might be additional losses; Take time to contact/write to your legislators on behalf of students.
- vi. Groveland will stay as a Title I school next year. We are now at about 51% FRL students. That will increase the Title I funding as well. We may also transition from the targeted assist to school-wide Title I category after next year.
- vii. The Special Ed budget will look mostly similar to last year and funds several positions, a social worker, nurse, specialist, and teaching assistant positions.
- viii. Central Office cuts have happened over recent years and are likely to continue. These do affect Groveland directly as well with less support for the school from Facilities and the like. With the interim superintendent, Cabinet level positions were not filled. One example is fewer assistant superintendents this year than in the past.
- ix. Other positions have also been established at the district level, including specialists and key support people, some full time and part time.
- x. Total Groveland money, including General, Compensatory, Referendum, and Title I is \$2,524,458. Last year was at least \$60K more. Last year we got a couple of extra late additional amounts, the \$85/student that all schools got but also about six figures beyond that negotiated for late in the process. But that depended on the district having money to disburse.
- xi. These numbers are preliminary, depending what happens at the state and local level. There are productive ways to advocate for more money at the state and city level. Parents joined in to say that advocating at the state level is also key because that can generate more money for SPPS overall. Encourage friends across Minnesota to do this.
- xii. The PTO encourages people to call/write their legislators. The PTO will share sample letters and many time scripts may be found online to use as guidelines when communicating via phone with your legislators.
- xiii. The PTO will also organize a group of Groveland parents to attend next Board Meeting. We will present a united front for our school as well as the district. We

will urge the Board to consider every possibility of providing the resources our schools need to thrive. Please contact [groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com) if interested in speaking at the next board meeting and/or attending the meeting with the group to show your support for our school.

xiv. Contact Principal Pedersen at [rebecca.pedersen@spps.org](mailto:rebecca.pedersen@spps.org) if you would like to share your funding priorities for Groveland. The latest information on the district budget can be found at <http://www.spps.org/budget>. Also, please know that staff are working hard to advocate for Groveland. Principal Pedersen extended a thanks to the Groveland community for the dedicated work we do to make this a great school.

### PTO's Environmental Thought:

Don't Kill That Spider! There are an estimated 40,000 species of spiders, and they all eat insects. They're an important part of the food web and provide natural pest control. Tip from <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

### PTO's Community Building Challenge:

Volunteer at your child's school either on a Committee or at one of the many school events that need volunteer support.

### Next meeting:

**Join us for our FINAL PTO Meeting on Monday May 15th from 6-7:30pm**