

## Groveland Park PTO Meeting Minutes: April 19th, 2018

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Next to last meeting of the year. We'll be doing a lot of planning for next year and sharing about upcoming events. We will hear about plans for next year from Ms. Pedersen about staffing. We also want to think about planning volunteer roles for next year. We also want to prep a bit for the selection process for executive committee.

### 2. Vote to Approve March Meeting Minutes and Today's Meeting Agenda.

March minutes are available at: <https://www.spps.org/Page/11286>

Motion: Kathryn Wegner, Second: Heather Allison

### 3. Recap of Past Events and PTO Fundraising/Budget Update

#### A. Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard visit at March PTO Meeting

It was a spirited discussion, thank you to all who participated. There are many opportunities to advocate with the district and the state for funding.

#### B. Apex Fun Run (Heather)

If anyone knows of any friends or family members who have not yet fulfilled their pledges please let them know. Going for 100% pledge collection.

#### C. Scholastic Book Fair (Sarah)

The Book Fair in March was a great success! Many families attended and helped with volunteering--thank you! The fair brought in \$4340.80 in sales, and \$2170.40 in profit. This money goes directly to books for the Groveland library and classrooms. Mrs. Lake has already placed an order for the library, and we plan to give teachers funds to spend at the Fall Book Fair for their classrooms. We also were able to provide some books for Title 1 Night as prizes.

#### D. PTO Budget Update (Kerry)

Apex fun run raised just under \$14,300 so far. This is about \$4,000 less than last year. PTO was able to fund additional enrichment opportunities for the 2nd and 3rd graders to visit Gibbs farm. We have also created a fund for Track and Field Day. In the past this has come out of the P.E. teacher's funds from PTO. In future this will be a separate line item.

### 4. Upcoming Events

#### A. Pandamonium! First annual Groveland Carnival--Friday, May 4th, 5:30-8:00

Families are invited to donate prizes, stuffed animals, and cakes for the cake walk. Sign up here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084aada62fa0f85-2018> or email Heather at [groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com) to join the fun!

We are at the phase of getting the word out via social media. Please spread the word! Families are invited to donate gently used goods for prizes. This is intended to save \$ and be eco friendly. Please drop off donations with Ms. Michele in the main office.

We will have food, we will have an indoor contingency plan. It's going to be lots of fun. Climbing wall, obstacle courses, lots of fun traditional carnival games.

5:30-8 on May 4th.

Cake walk. We are still taking baked goods, please RSVP that you are bringing cakes.

Big posters are getting printed, and will be hung up soon at the school. 12 posters.

Pandamonium is open to public, neighbors are welcome and also feel free to bring friends and family who don't attend Groveland.

Google drive set up with Groveland graphics.

T-shirts will be sold with Pandamonium logo, can buy them at Pandamonium or later at **GrovelandGear.com**.

Walking tacos and hot dogs, snack food.

Popcorn maker

### **B. Groveland Field Day    May 10th and 11th (RAIN DATES 5-17 and 5-18)**

Parent volunteers are needed to help with this wonderful Groveland tradition. Parents can “coach” (lead students through the stations) or help run a station. Sign up online here: <http://signup.com/login/entry/1037033507278618078>

### **5. Principal's Report--Ms. Pedersen**

Kindergarten and Pre-K orientation is on May 10th. Always nice to have parents there greeting the new parents. For the most part, these are families who are registering and plan to come to Groveland in the fall.

Budget discussion.

There isn't a complete budget info session that I'm going to be able to give you tonight. We are still having corrections and changes, not definite numbers yet. Not ready as a district yet to give out detailed information yet. I do have the amount for the budget.

Viewing of video from district about budget. SPPS stats. Annual budget more than \$731,000,000. 50% ESL, 70% Free and Reduced Lunch.

65% of budget comes from MN state. 11% Fed govt. 24% local sources property taxes. 2% bonds.

Special Ed underfunded. For every dollar we spend on sp ed only get 0.50.

80% General fund.

For next school year expenses expected to increase. Projecting 17 Million shortfall for '18-'19 (this is less than the projected shortfall of 24 million this year)

Question: What is the structural problem that leads to the continual cuts?

Ms. Pedersen: It has to do with the amount coming in from the federal government and state. Even a small increase in salary and cost of benefits adds up to a big shortfall. Special Education laws federally, but they don't provide funds to meet requirements.

Marjorie: State contributions to education haven't kept up with inflation over time. We have expectations from state and legislation that says we need to provide a high quality education for all.

Question: Can we sue the state for underfunding education?

Marjorie: someone is suing the state. We should find out more what's going on with this.

Parent: We won't be a high-quality education state if the legislature keeps underfunding. I feel some urgency about this.

Ms. Pedersen: There are parent advocacy groups advocating with state. Write to your legislators. Used to be a group called Parents United who advocated for public education, lobbying to state on behalf of parents.

Marjorie: This sounds like a discussion for next meeting, finding out about what Parents United did, what are our options for lobbying, maybe teachers union would be a resource for what is happening at other schools.

What is happening with budget at Groveland?

Budget process starts with a projection of how many students will enroll at each school.

We're projected at 461, last year 471.

Compensatory Ed (based on free/reduced lunch eligibility) right now at 52-54% FRL for Groveland

Expected enrollment is divided into the number of classrooms required by teachers' contract agreement

Grade level and poverty level affect class sizes (since our FRL lower, we get slightly higher numbers, like one more student)  
Each school gets a base staff necessary to operate a school (principal, clerk, teachers, prep time, etc.)  
There is some money left over (supplies etc)

Projected enrollment 461 '18-'19  
Kgn projected 75 (class range 22-26)  
1 projected 69 (class range 22-27)  
2 projected 72 (22-27)  
3 projected 64 (22-27)  
4 projected 70 (25-29)  
5 projected 72 (25-29)

We didn't have enough students last year to have a 4th Kindergarten because classes too small.  
Projections based on formula about how many students leave between each grade level.

This year 5th grade teachers have only 2 classes, over class size max so they didn't have to do a split.

Question: Do you anticipate splits next year for 4th/5th and 2nd/3rd?

Ms. Pedersen: I think we might end up with some splits because of those numbers.

Question: Do these numbers reflect a trend in recent years?

Ms. Pedersen: Now they try to keep at the class size max, so we end up sometimes losing a teacher like with the Kindergarten class last year. It's been pretty consistent, although a few years ago we were at 500 and now at 461.

Question: Can you compare the Kgn numbers from this year and last year?

Ms. Pedersen: About the same

Question: How many pre-K students stay?

Ms. Pedersen: Only about half of pre-k students stay, because Pre-K draws from throughout area, families may have siblings at other schools that don't offer pre-k.

Question: Does anyone conduct exit interviews about why families leave?

Ms. Pedersen: lot of families moving out of state or out of district. 4th grade students sometimes leave for a charter over summer. From Kgn-5th grade about half our families stay. We lose children to Capitol Hill.

Groveland's Proposed Budget '18-'19

General Fund \$1,703,317

Comp Ed 433,009

Integration 0

Referendum 304,588

Title 1 136,466

Total Allocation 2,577,380

Title 1 Funds

Question: Are we always going to be a Targeted Assist Title 1 School?

Ms. Pedersen: It's a big process to apply to be a schoolwide title school. For us right now, I feel like this is the best way we can help the kids.

Question: Would the move from Targeted Assist to School-wide Title change our funding?

Ms. Pedersen: No

Question: How does the bottom line compare to last year?

Ms. Pedersen: It's up, but it's not because of inflation.

Question: Are we going to lose major teaching positions or smaller positions?

Ms. Pedersen: We don't know yet.

Question: Is this still a proposed budget?

Yes, things may change still.

Question: Can PTO help to fund creatively and perhaps retain staff person? My friend at Saint Anthony Park is an E.A. and her salary is paid by PTO (well, technically PTO pays for supplies like paper so SPPS can officially pay for her position, but PTO is really responsible for the school having extra staff person). Please let us know, PTO would like to support with funds if possible.

Ms. Pedersen: Yes, we have done things like that in the past. I will let you know.

Our budget doesn't have to cover some positions in school, e.g. Special Ed, social worker .5, nurse .6, teacher assistants with DCD and IEPs

Budget 2018-2019

Salaries: 2,518,658

Non-salary 61,722

Testing coordinator 7,000 (paid hourly)

Staff development 2,000 (teachers who need to go for training, sometimes pay for substitutes)

Field Tech .25

School Budget

.5 counselor

.5 social worker

.25 field tech

Testing coordinator- hourly

Cafeteria supervision

Extra curricular (patrol supervisor, tech coordinator, textbook coordinator)

Field trip overnights

Title 1 Academic Support

Title 1 hourly

One thing we could possibly use help from PTO for next year. Unpaid school lunches. People do not realize if they apply for Free and Reduced Lunch but they don't do it til October, they have to pay difference, it doesn't get paid. School has to pay it. Right now as a school we owe about \$1,000.

Marjorie: These meetings are always hard, but this year isn't looking as grim as some years. It isn't looking like we will have to lose a classroom teacher, may have splits. We will be in touch with Becky about how we can support. Other cuts to smaller positions I know parents like to hear about it.

We hired a Science teacher for next year! He comes from another St. Paul school. We are very excited about him.

Question: Is the behavior specialist Mr. Hale possibly going to get cut? What is the plan?

Question: I'd like to create a classroom committee around behavior challenges in the school.

Ms. Pedersen: Behavioral plan goes out each fall. We could have parents on committee.

## **6. Looking forward....plans for next school year**

### **A. Executive Positions for 2018-2019 and election process for May Meeting**

We have an election process for next year. We have 4 executive positions and we will have an election at our next meeting. Exec positions: President, Vice President, Fundraising Chair, Treasurer and Co-Treasurer

Will be voted on at next meeting. We take nominations by email before next meeting.

Please email Marjorie Bequette at [groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com) if you would like to nominate yourself(encouraged!) or someone else! In past vice president has been president the next year. We would like to invite nominations and we will have a vote at may meeting. Fundraising chair does not have to be one person. Could be 2 co-chairs. Don't feel limited by one chair slot.

List of committees and positions. Many of these were created by someone who wanted to take it on and do it. We always welcome parent volunteers in any way you can find your place in volunteering, whether it's an existing position or you create a new role! We have a lot of freedom and possibilities. Parent volunteers are a big piece of this school!

**B. Committee Chair and volunteer opportunities for next year--what are our goals and priorities?** Brainstorm with group. This includes Fundraising Campaigns to be approved at May Meeting. Note: Due to time, we were not able to brainstorm about this--pushing to May Meeting Agenda.

### **C. After-School Enrichment Opportunities--Ideas for programs we could start or bring back to Groveland.**

#### **1. Lego League (Sarah Atunah-Jay)**

I have a 3rd grader and have been at Groveland for 4 years. I approached Becky and we had Destination Imagination for two years. Sue Tomzak and Sarah coached in past. They were embedded in EDL program making it accessible to all students. Helps us ideally maintain teams that reflect who we are as a school. When my daughter was in 5th grade, got interested in Lego League. Lego League is a SPPS program, funded by 3M. At competition all SPPS kids were competing against each other. Neat to be part of this as a district.

Video about lego league.

Program for kids ages 9-16

Designed to spark interest in STEM.

Website [firstinspires.org](http://firstinspires.org)

Divided into 3 concepts: 1. core values--how interact as a team, gracious professionalism

In St. Paul have to have at least 8-10 kids.

2. Robot programming/mission for robot

3. Research

At the competition, 2 minutes solve mission, 5 minutes presenting research

It's been a year now we haven't had this program, it would be great to bring it back.

In the past we had 3 teams, 2 teachers coordinated, 3 parent volunteers

Next year I'm not sure to what degree I can coach, but would like to mentor and be involved.

Why didn't we have it this last year?

Couldn't find parent volunteers or staff this year to lead it.

Lego League is October-January

Kids can actually get scholarships in high school based on lego league

## **2. Destination Imagination**

This is a program that has been at Groveland in the past and we could bring back as a way to meet gifted/talented challenge needs. Students work in grade-level teams to solve a creative challenge and compete at a tournament. Adult volunteers are needed to manage or co-manage teams of 5-7 students.

[www.mndi.org](http://www.mndi.org) for more info!

## **3. Girls on the Run**

Girls on the Run is a nation-wide nonprofit. Program for girls in Grades 3-5, combines Life Skills lessons and running. There is a curriculum and training plan. The curriculum includes three parts: understanding ourselves, valuing relationships/teamwork, and understanding how we connect/shape world. Builds confidence and physical fitness.

The team meets twice/week for 1.5 hours for 10-12 weeks. At the end girls run a 5K race with a “sponsor” running buddy, could be family member, friend, teacher.

Mrs. Dobson did this when she was teaching at Galtier and says it’s a great program. They gave free Asics shoes and athletic clothes to girls who needed them. We could connect with the EDL program for busing, access for all students.

Looking for 2 parent volunteers to help bring Girls on the Run to Groveland for Spring ‘19. There is a training and it would be a lot of fun!

7. Motion to end meeting, vote to end meeting.

**Please join us for the next PTO Meeting on Thursday, May 17th, 6:00-7:30**

### **Groveland PTO Executive Committee**

Marjorie Bequette, President [groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com)

Sarah Murphy, Vice President [groveland.pto.vicepres@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.vicepres@gmail.com)

Heather Allison, Fundraising Chair [groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com)

Kerry Furtney, Treasurer [groveland.pto.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.treasurer@gmail.com)

Please contact us with questions or if you would like to get involved with Groveland PTO!