**VIRTUAL PTO Meeting Agenda/Minutes May 06, 2020**

**1.** **Welcome** to the pop-up School Budget & PTO Executive Committee Election PTO Meeting! - Karl & Heather

Be sure to open the Chat Bar (for “sticky notes” and Raise Your Hand if you have a question (please let us know if you need help with any of these features).

**Present**: Heather A, Karl T, Becky P, Talia SD, Adeel A., Sarah I, Phyllis B, Berglind, Karl geisler, Regan F, David W, Erin J, Kerry F, Charlotte HJ, Sarah C, Marjorie B, Robert C, Doug C, Kathryn W

**2.** **PTO Executive Committee Nominations:** Please send anonymously through the Chat your nomination for PTO President, Vice President, Treasurer, Deposits Treasurer and Fundraising Chair(s): we will vote by Poll after the Budget presentation.

**3.** **Principal’s Budget Presentation:** Becky Pedersen

This year's budget: $2,485,548: $100,000 less than 2019-20. Had 415 students last year, projected 437: this year 414 projected. Fewer across st. Paul, pk: 40, pk: 68, 1: 61, 2: 63, 3: 60, 4: 66, 5: 56. We're a low poverty rate school at 51% how many sections per grade.

Parent Question: Does this budget reflect district decisions on COVID-19? The district is not ready to make changes as none have been made at state level yet which directly affects district decisions. Budgets are due to district by 5/15 then goes to the board.

Parent Question: What does this current budget look like in regards to cuts? It's one position, classroom teacher, specialists, counsellor, behavior specialist, librarian, supplies (have to have $30-35k in budget each year) there isn't much to cut in our building. Would we try and increase our effort with local universities to fill gaps? Yes, we've had st. Thomas students but they're not getting as many education students so it's gotten a bit smaller. Urban education within St Paul that works with st Thomas, anyone with a BA can get their education degree while working in St Paul = intern teachers who stay all year, maybe getting that again (suitor program). Class projection: our current 1/2 split would work with number of students but not with budget. How can we make sure we don't lose a teacher?

Parent Question: Would increasing our push to drive enrollment help the budget? Our enrollment was what it is now when Becky started, then it went up the down again. Sometimes reflects economy, sometimes competition with charters, it's not just Groveland but all over. We could market like crazy, charters campaign in the summer, but would have to be big to make a difference. District used to send teachers and principals out all over at Paul to help market St Paul schools. We have lost 5th graders and some 4th to 5th to charters or family moves. The district looks at student movement across last 3 years as they plan enrollment per school and cap grades.

Parent Question: How is the district likely to respond if suddenly a bunch of families can't afford private and enroll in public or vice versa? How responsive will they be to those changes? Or will we be in a position to adjust 3 weeks into the year? They've adjusted quickly already with COVID-19. It might be a draw for families to come to st Paul seeing that response. They have held schools harmless if under projected enrollment (did not take back funds) but might not be the case this year. It's hard to say. What about if we spread the word for people not to take no for an answer if their kid didn't get it, fight placement. Discovery club is at highland and haven't considered putting one at Groveland because rec center has smore fun. Space wise the rec center isn't ours to use, would have to be through s'more fun. Have to call by the time you apply in Feb and is hard to get in. Many parents couldn't do 9:30 start time without s'more fun, it's a great bonus.

SIDENOTE: Student’s stuff left at school can be collected, there will be a day to drive by and pick up stuff - TBA.

**4.** **PTO Executive Committee Election:**

1. **Nominations**: PRES: Heather A., VP: Charlotte HJ, TREASURER: Talia SD, DEPOSITS TREASURER: Doug C, FUNDAISIN: Hrithik G., Charlotte HJ
2. **Election Results**: PRES: Heather A., VP: Charlotte HJ, TREASURER: Talia SD, DEPOSITS TREASURER: Doug C, FUNDAISIN: Hrithik G., Charlotte HJ

**5.** **Parent Comments**: This is an open time to share ideas or questions per “sticky notes” or other.

We should all share our positive distance learning experience on FB and Instagram and tag #Groveland to spread the word! Do a “thank you” selfie with lawnsign: folks needing lawnsigns: Marjorie, Erin, Karl: David W. We should get a bunch to give new parents in summer - Erin happy to coordinate that effort if she can get signs from school.

**Please join us for the next PTO Meeting Monday, May 18th, 6-7:30pm: STAY TUNED!**