

## PTO Meeting Minutes: April 22, 2019

### *Groveland PTO Meeting Norms:*

- ❖ Start and end on time.
- ❖ Foster an environment of respect and listening.
- ❖ Offer your opinion and welcome challenging viewpoints while assuming positive intent.
- ❖ Expect and accept non-closure.

### **1. Welcome and Ice breaker activity (6:00-6:05)**

Thank you for coming! Please share your name and ages of children, as well as one question/comment/idea about traffic and pedestrian safety around Groveland.

-SARAH MURPHY: Kids take the bus, so not as much pedestrian experience around GPES

-KARL TALCOTT: Kids walk to school daily, using the controlled crosswalk and/or the safety patrolled intersection of Kenneth and St. Clair

-JEN SCHLUETER : Walk sometimes and wonder why there isn't a Flashing pedestrian crossing as seen on Cleveland and Jefferson

-HEATHER ALLISON: Why not a light at the uncontrolled intersection of Kenneth and St. Clair?

-KERRY FURTNEY: St. Clair/Cleveland: Many close calls, witnessed aftermath of major collision, would like school zone

-TALIA SHELDON-DESJARDINS: Kids take the bus, so not as much pedestrian experience around GPES

-KATE BAXTER-(guest, President of Randolph Hts. PTA)

-BECKY PEDERSON (Principal, GPES)

-FAY SIMER (Traffic Engineer, St. Paul Engineering Dept.)

-SGT. KAT BROWN (St. Paul Police Dept.)

-ELIZABETH STIFFLER (St. Paul Safe Routes to Schools Director)

-DAVID WIEGRATZ - St. Clair/Prior is a hazard

-SARAH CRAIG- Drive kids, concern is speed from Prior to Kenneth as people pass them when they park to let kids off.

-SUSAN WILLIS (TA at GPES): Concerned about congestion

-AMY GEISSLER: Reports that when they walk to school, the St. Clair/Cleveland intersection is harrowing

-DAN SHEEHAN: Live across Cleveland, wife has reported numerous "close call" incidents at the intersection of Cleveland and St. Clair

Others in attendance:

MARJORIE BEQUETTE

KATHRYN WEGENER

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### **2. Vote to Approve March Meeting Minutes and Today's Meeting Agenda (6:05-6:10)**

March meeting minutes are available at: <https://www.spps.org/Page/35621>

Motion to Approve March Minutes: HEATHER, Seconded: TALIA

Motion to Approve April Agenda and ADD Resolution re: Pedestrian Safety: SARAH  
Motioned: JEN, Seconded: DAN

### **3. Pedestrian Safety at Groveland Discussion (6:10-6:45)**

Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss ways to improve pedestrian safety and school zone designation with guests Elizabeth Stiffler (St. Paul Traffic Engineering Department), Sergeant Brown (St. Paul Police), Fay Simer (Safe Routes to School), and Kate Baxter-Kauf (Randolph Heights PTA President and Mac-Groveland Community Council Representative)

**SPEED: Background behind why St. Paul does not have School Zones?**

Elizabeth Stiffler: What we know about the volume and speeds in Mac-Groveland  
Higher volumes are Arterials(Cleveland) or Collectors(St. Clair)

8500/day on Cleveland, speeds at 27mph. 85% of traffic at/below speed limit.

Dynamic Speed Display signs used when those numbers are higher.

Signage: No Right Turn, Marked Crosswalks (Bright Yellow Schoolhouse signs

3300/day on St. Clair, similar speeds, average does not exceed posted limit.

(ES presents map showing most recent data collection, presumably, their decisions regarding traffic controls are based on this data particularly as it shows problem areas)

The last time a traffic study was done when School Zones were in place (in the 1970's), a 1980-ish survey yielded a finding of "no discernable effect" on traffic speeds around schools.

KAT BROWN: We set up speed traps when speeds are above 35, and when there more speed exceeding travellers

ES: Crash data: 10 years/45 crashes, considered a "low crash" amount citywide

JEN: Dropping off before school, people don't stop, speed by; after school there is such congestion, what can be done about this?

KAT: When we look at the Yielding Rate study, we go back to the 3 E's of traffic safety: Enforcement, Engineering and Education. At SPPD, we'd rather not hand out traffic citations, but rather continue vigorous efforts to educate the public. Speeding is actually not going to be emphasized as much as SPPD undergoes a reorganization of Traffic Unit's focus, focusing specifically at Distracted Driving, (as this more recent phenomenon has had direct and dramatic effects on accident rates), the new "Hands Free" law takes effect in August.

PARENT Q: Has there ever been a push to eliminate parking on the other side of St. Clair?  
Drop offs on Sargent? Crossing only at controlled intersections?

**(Summary Note:)** There is a strong push by the 3 guests to emphasize that educating the public is the best way to go, and the current policy agenda. There was no specific addressing of Questions 1, 2, 4 or 5 below.

Safe Routes Plan? (Q directed to FAY) Can we do that here?  
Multi-pronged approach - how to inform, obtain compliance?

AAA might do outreach to college-age students...Bike Alliance of MN.,

MOTION TO PASS GPES RESOLUTION: SARAH/TALIA Vote to approve: Ayes: 10, Nays 0

#### **4. Upcoming PTO Events (6:45-6:50)**

- A. Open Mic Night
- B. Garden and grounds clean-up event - Saturday, April 27, 9am-1pm
- C. Pandamonium (Groveland Carnival) Friday, May 10, 5:30-8:00
- D. Groveland Family Picnic and BOGO Book Fair - Thursday, May 30
- E. Fun and Fitness Day - (Ms. Dobson organizes) Friday, May 31

#### **5. Fundraising Chairs Report - Heather Allison, Jen Schlueter (6:50-6:55)**

- A. Pandamonium (Groveland Carnival) May 10
- B. Scholastic Book Fair recap \$1900 profit from this, plus a \$1000 bonus
- C. 2019-20 IDEAS: Presenting next month SEND SUGGESTIONS

#### **6. PTO Executive Team Planning for Next Year (6:55-7:00)**

NEED:  
VP Candidate, Chairs

#### **7. Principal's Report - Ms. Pedersen (7:00-7:20)**

- A. School budget updates  
DISTRICT AGREED TO FUND THE BALANCE OF BEHAVIORAL SPECIALIST, and TITLE 1 funding, based on enrollment numbers meeting projection.

Working a bit on Special Ed. T.A.'s

#### **8. Parent Comments** - This is an open time to share ideas or questions. May follow up at the next meeting. (7:20-7:30)

MAY MEETING: We'll be having an APPRECIATION DAY as part of the final meeting

RE: Student safety as pertains to students with health issues in classrooms-

- District protocols?
- What language to use when debriefing our kids?

MARJ: How about some documentation about successful strategies, prioritization norms, what can be expected when new committees form?

## **9. Motion to Adjourn meeting, vote to adjourn meeting**

Motion to Adjourn: SARAH, Vote to Adjourn: PASSED

**Please join us for the final PTO Meeting of the school year on Thursday, May 16, 6-7:30.**

**Please email [Groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com](mailto:Groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com) for more information about volunteering!**

Questions and suggestions are always welcome. Please contact PTO leadership--we'd love to hear from you!

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

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

Kerry Furtney and Talia Sheldon-Desjardins, Treasurers [groveland.pto.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.treasurer@gmail.com)

Heather Allison, Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, and Jen Schlueter, Fundraising Chairs

[groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com)

## **Questions about Pedestrian Safety Near Schools**

- 1.) Why is the speed limit maintained at 30 mph on a street immediately abutting the school property?
- 2.) Why do we see that other municipalities have 15 mph and 20 mph school zone designations in the vicinity of elementary schools?
- 3.) Why has the City of Saint Paul decided not to designate ANY school zones throughout the city (school district)?
- 4.) If we, as concerned local community members, want to work with local and state government officials to change speed limits in School Zones citywide, how do we get started on that process?

5. ) Why has there not been the political will to make these types of roadway modifications a reality in the past?