

P.T.O. Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2012

Attendees: Jana Apple, Erica Marson, Litsa DeCoster, Indi Petranek-McHugh, Paul Touchton, Leah Lundy, Heather Cooper-Krossman, Dayla Stuhr, David Massingill, Steve Bonds, Maureen Jaimes, Gretchen Wright, DeAnn Baird, Rachael Wilde, Cathy Roper, Tera Lynn Shimel, Rhonda McCall, Nicole Burnham, Lisa Taylor, Sandi Bone, Nate Aaberg, Lorie Long Lara, Sarah Makela, Carrie Monnie, Marne Oyen

After introductions, the minutes were approved from June 2012 meeting with one correction in the 6th paragraph; \$200 should be \$2,000.

Principal Erica Marson gave a big thank you for a successful start to the school year. She mentioned we would probably have another hurdle when the children return from Winter Break. She is happy to start seeing volunteers and saw some today in the 3rd grade hall for math. She noted our enrollment is currently 507 and we were at 480 last year. Fir grove was not projected to even hit 500. She will bring a breakdown of class size for the next meeting.

Mrs. Marson then touched on our academic progress, via Oaks data, with an achievement rate of 1 thru 5, level 5 being the highest rating. Fir Grove is at 80% in reading and math earning a level 4. In our subgroups (other than white) reading and math is at 68% or a level 3. There will be extra focus on boosting that level of achievement. Our growth rate is at 90% which is a level 5, there are also benchmarks for 3rd, 4th and 5th. Overall rating is 82%, a level 4.

Mrs. Marson then spoke about the Community Engagement Committee (CEC) and the need for parents to volunteer and serve. The committee meets 3 times a year at 7am. Anyone interested can apply on the district website. The link is : www.beaverton.k12.or.us/home/community/community-engagement-committee/.

Next in Mrs. Marson's agenda items were the parent teacher conferences. They will now be 15 minutes and held in the gym or multi-purpose room. This is being done primarily due to class size and it's the only way for the teachers to make time to see all of the parents. Classical music will mark the end of each parent teacher conference to help usher out the parents and allow the next round to begin their meeting. This is a trial and they'll see how it goes. Also there may not be Spring conferences. Teachers will focus on learning targets and hit only the highlighted areas of the goal sheets. We are lucky to still have conferences as some schools have dropped them completely. Mrs. Marson feels they still really need to touch base with parents and would like to continue with conferences. This announcement went out in the last newsletter.

The last topic Mrs. Marson addressed was a big one, late starts. This would be for the teachers' learning teams and it's been proposed to have a 2 hour late start on Wednesdays. Currently teachers have a sub come in for a 45 minute meeting which was not the best use of time or money. The current proposal would be for late start every Wednesday and adding on 10 minutes to every school day. This proposal is just now being presented to teachers for feedback. It is possible this change could begin as quickly as January and will need school board approval.

Indi Petranek-McHugh, our current treasurer, gave the budget update as of October 1, 2012. The actual cost for the Smart Boards was \$4,922. Mrs. Marson mentioned there will be more Smart Board training on October 12th. Also the staff meetings are being held in each grades' classroom and teachers are showcasing how they are utilizing the boards. The 3rd grade was the latest to provide a demonstration. It was also noted that the budget be amended to show the Smart Boards as a closed item. It was amended. For school supplies we have \$3,831. We are currently in the process of buying more school supplies and that will be ongoing. The PTO only bought enough to start-up and is now in the process of buying wipes and Kleenex; also working on requests from teachers. Indi also mentioned the Meet the Teacher BBQ needed to be updated to Ice Cream Social for 2012.

On a side bar Rachael Wilde mentioned setting up a box for mis-printed copy sheets to use for drawing or extra homework. This was something that we tabled and will discuss/look into.

Next up was co-volunteer coordinator, Rhonda McCall. She was happy to report that as of October 1, 2012 we had already logged 800 volunteer hours. She mentioned teachers are now getting settled in and starting to have parents in the classroom. Rhonda also stressed it is very important to log all volunteer hours!!

Rhonda also listed out upcoming events that will need volunteers:

October 10th – Hearing and Vision tests (8am-2pm) The Lions are helping this year but a new vendor is doing the testing so additional help is needed. contact Rhonda McCall @ volunteer@ptofirgrove.com

October 17th – Fun Run (8am-2:30pm) contact Maureen James @ 1st-vp@firgrovepto.com

October 26th – Harvest Parties (1:30-2:30) contact Tera Lynn Schimel @ volunteer@ptofirgrove.com

Rhonda then touched on the current ongoing volunteer needs:

Reading help: reading groups for the kindergarten classes. Contact Jennifer Burkart @ Jennifer_burkart@beaverton.k12.or.us

Math help: Ms. Long's 2nd grade class is looking for a volunteer to come in weekly or bi-weekly to run some small guided math games groups. This would need to be between 9:30-11:00am. Any day of the week would be fine. Contact Hope Long @ hope_long@beaverton.k12.or.us

Library help: Help is needed in the library with checking in books, shelving books, small projects and keeping the library clean and tidy. Contact Lisa Karen Donnelly library assistant @ lisakaren_donnelly@beaverton.k12.or.us

Kindergarten Class Help: There is a need for classroom support due to overwhelming class sizes. Helping children be safe walking to the bathroom, staying on task in the classroom, transition to recess, making safe choices during free choice time and walking down the long hallway to the buses. The morning Kindergarten is in desperate need of a volunteer from 8:00-10:30 every day of the week. This does not have to be the same person every day. If you are available only every other Tuesday, or can handle one day a month, they will take you!! Contact Rhonda McCall @ volunteer@firgrovepto.com

Passport help: Help students learn geography. Volunteers will test students on their maps for the month. Students are tested once a month for approximately 4 hours but shifts are available in 1-2 hours shifts. Next passport is October 23rd. Contact Sandi Bone @ sandi@jimandsandi.net

Book Fair Help: Help is needed to staff the book sale on the 15th, 16th, 17th & 18th of October. Contact Gretchen Wright @ gretchenws@yahoo.com

Please help when you can. Make sure you have your background check completed prior to volunteering. Also reach out to others who may be retired, they would be welcomed!! Also there are even at home projects for parents who want to volunteer but maybe unable to make it to school during school hours. Finally, just a warning, the science expo is just around the corner and lots of volunteers will be needed.

Tera Lynn Schimel co-volunteer coordinator mentioned that the Harvest parties are almost all set up. She will put a link of some helpful party ideas on the PTO Facebook page. Also money for the Harvest parties will be available for pick up in the office this year. Tera is also covering staff room treats for the teachers. Mrs. Marson mentioned that the teachers were thrilled to see such a thoughtful gesture and that it meant a lot.

Maureen Jaimes, co-fundraising coordinator, said the Fun Run assembly will be this Friday at 8:15 and packets would be going home with the children. The Fun Run is October 17th and volunteers are still needed to count laps.

Carrie Monnie, co-fundraising coordinator, is heading up the movie ticket sales. She mentioned that they have a few tickets to give away for a family that might be in need. She is also collecting Sunny D labels for books. If you have any please send them her way.

Sandi Bone, co-president, gave an update on the RAZ program. It was funded this year by the PTO and allows children access to a reading program over the internet. She also mentioned that the Passport Program is done by the PTO. Thursday is Bike, Run or Walk day, the PTO will be handing out a few treats to those who participate. Friday will be a special ice cream treat party for the children who completed 1500 minutes of reading this summer. Regarding school supplies, there will be a notice going out asking those who have not yet paid to turn in their money. Finally the PTO board approved funding for several assemblies using Box Top money. As a side bar, make sure to turn in those box tops!

Unfinished business included an update on the garbage disposal request for the teachers' lounge. Turns out the plumbing won't support a disposal. In reference to putting in a new sink, the quotes received total \$1,700. Finally the option of putting in an instant hot water tap would come with the risk of not having maintenance support from the district, thus the PTO would need to fund the maintenance. It was inquired about a water cooler and unfortunately the district would not support that option either. Another suggestion for a Keurig machine was brought up, the cost running around \$100-\$200. The PTO requested Mrs. Marson check with the staff to see if that was something they would like. This may be an option for teacher appreciation.

Next up under unfinished business was the flag. There has been trouble having it hung in the gym. They need a cherry picker and we are on the district list, it's just taking a while. There was a parent present who said she would check with her husband to see if he might help; he's a roofer. It was also inquired about any other missing flags for our students' nationalities. It will be checked on.

New Business included discussion regarding the Book Fair which will be open the week of conferences. It will be open after school and from 8 to 8 on Thursday. It will be in the Library this year and posters will be going up next week.

Steve Bonds mention he is working on oral traditions/questions that new parents might have that he can answer. He would also like any parents who have been at the school and can remember what questions they had, to send in those questions/answers and he will put them on the PTO website under New Parent Info at <http://www.firgrovepto.com/>

Boy Scout Pack 685 has adopted Fir Grove for their volunteer project. They would like suggestions of projects they can do to help our school. These projects will be completed by Boy Scouts who are 1st-5th graders, please keep the ages in mind when suggesting projects.

Rachael Wilde is the box top coordinator. Please get your box tops in by November 1st. The best way to turn them in is in lots of 50 if you can but if you have less please turn them in. She is looking into setting up a drop box at conferences too. Finally she will also collect Labels for Education, please send them in with your students!

Deadline for items to be included in the October PTO newsletter is October 17th.

Finally the PTO would like to provide things parents are interested in during these meetings. For example, having a school board member come in for a discussion. If there are topics you would be interested in please let us know.

The next PTO meeting will be November 6th at 8:15am in the portable behind the office and that kids are welcome, but we do not provide babysitters.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Postscript: Please note a BSD Brief was sent out 10/15/2012 and stated that they **would not** be doing the late starts in January 2013:

"With increased class sizes, program reductions and eliminations, as well as overall financial duress, time has become even more precious, making this a sensitive topic for teachers, parents and the community. Listening to these concerns and focusing on implementation at a later date seems to be the compassionate, wise and strategic course to take at this time."