

UNAPPROVED PTO MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 2, 2013

Attendees: Leah Lundy, Shawna Walton, Nicole Dwigans, Gretchen Wright, Rhonda McCall, Sandi Bone, Sarah Makela, Ivonne Renderos-Rivas, Kerry Forsell, Rachael Wilde, Carrie Monnie, Nicole Burnham, Kelly Burns, Jason Burns, Melissa Anderson, Maureen Jaimes, Erica Marson, Lisa Taylor, Chris Bulosan, Michele Bulosan, Sarah Scott, Marne Oyen.

Introductions were made and the minutes from the June 4, 2013 were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Mrs. Marson was first on the agenda. She gave a big thank you to everyone for a smooth 1st week of school. It was also noted that from here on out Kindergarten will start the 2nd week of school. Our current classroom counts are as follows:

| Grade | Classroom Total | Classroom Total | Classroom Total | Additional 1 st Classroom | Total at Grade Level |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Kinder | 23 | 26 | 27 | | 76 |
| 1 st | 25 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 95 |
| 2 nd | 30 | 29 | 26 | | 85 |
| 3 rd | 26 | 26 | 28 | | 80 |
| 4 th | 29 | 28 | 27 | | 84 |
| 5 th | 27 | 26 | 27 | | 80 |

There is a "pot" of money available if class size increases. Classrooms in the range of 30-35 will be evaluated. The district also has separate "pots" of money for the middle school and high school grade levels.

During Back to School night there was a lot of discussion about the 4 pillars, "We" do it together. This is the district's new focus of bringing together students, parents, teachers and the community. Helpful brochures are available regarding the new program and as the school year progresses you will see the school and teachers always trying to connect the 4 pillars. If you are interested in learning more please see the front office for a brochure.

Mrs. Marson's big news was this year's new report cards. She gave examples of the old version and the new version. The new version pulls the school district into national standards. This focus has been to get students across the nation to the same levels. The middle and high schools have been using these new report cards for the past 2-3 years; it was expressed there was a learning curve with the process. On October 11th there will be no school and the teachers will be receiving some training with the new report cards and given the chance to play with the format. The new scale will be a 4, 3, 2, 1 scale with grading on end of year targets; also a +, - and = will be used. The district will be providing lots of info regarding the new report cards and Erica will be discussing the new process at future PTO meetings. The first of the new report cards will be sent out in December. Remember you may find your child's learning targets online at the district website. Mrs. Marson answered several questions regarding the new report cards.

Next it was shared that the school district had \$2.3 million available from gainshare and decided to use it toward taking away a budget reduction day. Thus April 28th, which was originally scheduled as a budget reduction day with no school, will be reinstated and we will be having school on the 28th of April.

Finally Mrs. Marson mentioned there will be a new bond that is being put together for improvements to just school buildings. Fir Grove is listed on the bond for repairs.

Our new treasurer, Sarah Scott, was up next with a budget update. We received \$4,100 for school supplies which is up from last year's \$3,800. We have been receiving about \$50 a month from Escript (www.escrip.com). By signing up at Escript you can link to your Safeway account and a portion of all your Safeway purchases will be sent to the PTO automatically each month. It's a simple process for parents to sign up and an easy way for Fir Grove to earn money.

There were some expenditures for Meet the Teacher and funds from the Penny Drive were spent for the Music department, including lots of new equipment. A few teachers have spent their allotted \$100 from the PTO. The \$100 allotment is available to all classrooms. So far this year we have spent \$2,200 on school supplies and funded the A to Z reading program.

Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Leah Lundy, was next on the agenda. She was happy to report 775 volunteer hours had been logged so far this school year. She shared a few important upcoming dates:

October 4th - Fun Run Assembly

October 9th - Picture Day

October 11th - No school

October 18th - Fun Run

October 31st - Harvest Parties

Please remember background checks must be completed before you can volunteer at Fir Grove. Leah will also take all volunteers she can, grandparents, neighbors, friends who just want to help!

Leah is also looking for a Meal Coordinator for the Fall Parent/Teacher conferences.

She also wanted to remind everyone it is never too late to log your volunteer hours, work at home counts, included prep work for the Harvest Parties!

There is still a need for volunteers on Picture Day, the Vision/Hearing exams, Harvest Parties (she needs parents who want to plan the party as well) and Passport is looking for volunteers on October 24th and November 21st from 9am to mid-day, contact Sandi Bone.

Donations are also needed for Staff treats the first Friday of month. Teachers love this and it's a great moral booster!

There was a brief discussion about the importance of logging volunteer hours and how it helps the school. Included but not limited to receiving grants, retention, showing value and some companies will pay employees to volunteer at school.

Next up was our Fundraising update with Lisa Taylor and Ivonne Renderos-Rivas. The big kick off Fundraising assembly will be October 4th. The children will be bringing home their fundraising envelopes which will include information on the run, pledges, a script and the prizes. This year's theme will be, Oh the Places You Will Run. Our goal this year is to hit \$20,000. This ends up being about \$40 raised per student. Kids will get to vote on what the "reward" will be too, i.e., what will the teachers have to do? The video is almost completed and will be shown at the assembly. Children will have about 2 weeks to get sponsors. The fun run is the only fundraiser we do outside the Penny Drive. There is still a need for volunteers; the afternoon session is looking a bit bare. This year there will also be medals for the top laps and if a child can raise \$35 they will get a t-shirt. There will also be a Facebook reminder for kids to wear their running shoes and a mass phone call as well.

Rhonda McCall, our president, was next up. She expressed having some difficulty this year juggling the role of president with some of work responsibilities. In order for the students and staff to receive and have the best/most benefits she felt a co-president was needed. Sandi Bone, with board approval, will be filling the position of co-president her last year at Fir Grove, effective immediately.

She next shared that the Summer Reading program party had 52 attend. Pictures of these fabulous readers will be posted up in the hallway soon.

Beaverton Christen Church again donated some Crayola products for this school year. The donation was a bit smaller this year and the PTO needed to purchase some additional Crayola products for the 2013-2014 school year.

We were able to earn \$286 dollars with the Target Gives program. Thank you to all that voted! A quick note to remember if you own a Target RedCard, please make sure to register it to Fir Grove. The school will receive 1% of all your total purchases.

Rhonda and Sandi shared that we will be trying to do updates on our Facebook page with helpful information for parents. Please keep an eye out!

There was no unfinished business to report.

New Business –

Rachael Wilde will be working on the Bike/Walk to school day. The actual day is October 9th but Fir Gove has picture day that day, so our Bike/Walk to school day will be October 10th. There will be some prizes and ribbons for children who walk or ride their bikes to school on the 10th. Erica will be working on getting an extra police officer to patrol the area since there will be more students out and about.

Rachael also mentioned Box Tops are going well, as is the collection of Labels for Education. There are also ebox tops that parents can do as well.

Carrie Monnie is running the Valley Cinema movie tickets again this year. Fir Grove receives \$3 out of every \$10 ticket pack sold! Movies are starting October 5th. This is a great deal. Carrie also requested a Facebook reminder be sent out about the movies.

Gretchen Wright was next up with a Book Fair update. The Book Fair will be held October 30th through November 7th and will be open during parent conferences. It will be located in the Library. Each year parents want to purchase books for their child's teacher, but don't know what to buy. In the past parents have inquired about buying books for their child's classroom, this year each classroom will have a jar for families to donate to so the teacher can choose what books their classroom needs. Also there will be a new Diary of a Wimpy Kid out and pre-orders forms will be available in the library; you can only use check or cash on pre-orders but you will get your book early! Remember the library earns of % of the sales from the Book Fair.

Also Art Lit is starting! The first artist will be Walt Disney and this year all artists will be from the 20th century. Check out the hallway bulletin board for the artists studied for this year.

There will be an 8am Copy Room training on Tuesday, October 8th and a 9:30 volunteer orientation on October 2nd.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

The next PTO meeting will be November 5th at 8:10am