

Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Beaverton, Oregon on September 5, 2019 by Minta Johnson.

Present

Minta Johnson, Lyndsay Roller, Jenn Hundt, Sarah Hinton, Elizabeth Ranweiler, Kristina Hiersche, Kari McGatha, Erin Miles, Catherine Rund, Erica Knight, Ian Smith, Holly Larsen, Kate Prakash, Jenne Steineckert, Carissa Cavilee, DJ Tuetell, Anne Durbetaki, Stephanie Morris, Trisha Gross, Sarah Grieb, Hadeel Aljubauri, Heather Wills, Mary Marta, Rachel Willis, Daniele Dickinson

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed. The minutes of the last meeting (June 4, 2019) were unanimously approved as distributed.

Open Issues

Introductions: PTO Board

- The 2019-20 board members introduced themselves and gave a short description of each board member's duties and responsibilities.
- Emphasized that Fun Run is coming up quickly (fundraising begins Sept 27 and the run is Oct 18). Fun Run is our main fundraiser – we don't have kids sell wrapping paper or things like that.
- BCC gave us a huge donation for school supplies! Please sign the thank you BCC poster.

Eco-School Network Presentation: Rachel Willis

- The Eco-School Network serves four districts and has approximately 100 parents and 32,000 students involved.
- The Network offers free training and support to parents interested in leading or continuing projects with an eco-friendly focus. Examples include sustainability projects in the cafeteria and active transportation.
- About 25 schools in Beaverton are currently participating.
- The network provides a chance to connect with other parents who have led similar projects – don't have to reinvent the wheel.
- Info session will be held Sept 30 at 7pm at a Beaverton parent's home. Sign up on the flyer if interested. Liz will also post the flyer on the PTO's Facebook page.

Principal Update: Erin Miles

- Welcome! Today the first half of kindergarten had their first day, tomorrow will be the second half's first day.
- We have 388 students enrolled. The projected number was 362 so we are up by 26.

- K has 75 students total. Projection was 68.
- 4th grade has 34 students each. Last year at Fir Grove the 4th grade classes had 20-21 students each. 5th grade has 32 students each. These numbers are because we lost 3 teachers with last year's budget cuts and our enrollment is above what was projected. Mrs Miles is checking in with the district on a daily basis about the possibility of additional staff. Fir Grove is not the only school facing these numbers.
- There are 22 homes currently for sale in the Fir Grove attendance area. The new enrollees are coming from homes.
- Eagle Scouts will be doing a project in the courtyard.
- Head Start begins Monday.
- Thanks to everyone who helped get the school ready! Scouts pulled tons of weeds, custodians worked all summer, volunteers helped distribute school supplies.
- There is a new video entrance system – that means it will take a bit longer to get into the office. Please be patient.
- In October the state report card will come up. Fir Grove went up 11% in English/Language Arts – that is the best score across the district for growth! Math went up 10%.
- Next Thursday, September 12, at 6pm is Back to School night. Limited childcare will be available.
- Community walks coming up – Sept 16 and 17 at 6pm.
- Fir Grove cleanup Sept 21 from 9-11am. Lots of weeding to do!

Budget Update: Kristina Hiersche

2 spreadsheets: 2018-19 and 2019-20

2018-19 school year

- Ended the year \$3300 under budget – we will spend it this year.
- June income – less than \$1000 brought in. Mostly from the restaurant night at Pizzicato in May. Also the glow dance brought in \$200!
- Most months we spend more than we bring in. Most of our income comes in the month of Fun Run.
- June expenses
 - Class parties
 - School supplies – biggest June expense
 - Teacher supplies

2019-20 school year income

- Not much income in July
- August income is from school supply \$\$ donated at Meet Your Teacher and from Fred Meyer Rewards

- Big donation from Beaverton Christian Church (BCC) - just under \$3000 - for school supplies will come in in September
- School supply coordinator works with BCC to get the supplies the students need
- Fun Run goal is \$25,000
- We overbudget because historically we've underspent

2019-20 school year expenses

- Assemblies – Brazilian Dance
- Books for Battle of the Books
- Mystery Science – online videos and experiments. Very engaging and teachers love it! Last year the principal paid for Mystery Science from the school budget. This year the school budget has been cut so the PTO picked it up. Same for the \$3600 Math & Science grant.
- Insurance costs for PTO
- Meet Your Teacher ice cream
- Scholastic (kindergarten)
- School supplies

Volunteer Update: Lyndsay Roller

Lots of volunteer opportunities coming up!

- Summer reading party Sept 27
- Picture day Oct 8
- Welcome back dance Oct 10
- Fun Run! We will need LOTS of volunteers on the day of the Fun Run, October 18!
- School cleanup Sept 21
- Class parties at the end of October
- Art literacy
- Year round – book room, office help

Fundraising Update: Jenn Hundt

- Handout: packets about sponsorships. Buy space on the Fun Run tshirt! You can bring these packets to work, to the grocery store, anywhere else. Almost 300 shirts get handed out. \$50 for name of company, \$100 for logo.
- Starting next week Fun Run info will come home with kids.
- Fun Run theme is related to fire safety week/month.
- Bottle Drop! Fill a blue bag with returnable bottles and cans and bring it to school and Jenn will pick it up and take it to Bottle Drop.

Update on Boy Scouts Units 685: Kari McGatha

PTO charters Scout troop 685. Pack meets at Fir Grove on Tuesdays, both boys and girls can join the pack.

- Busy summer! Bike adventure swimming, camps, 2 car washes. Next activity is canoe trip at Government Island
- 23 people spent a total of 40 hours of volunteer work pulling weeds on the Fir Grove playground over the summer.
- Scouts will be in the Beaverton Parade on Saturday.
- Pack is boys and girls, troop is currently boys only.

Committee Updates

Geography Club – Stephanie Morris

- Geography club is for 2nd-5th grade. Goal is to have kids understand where they are in the world.
- Learn states & their capitals, countries and their capitals. All studying is done at home.
- There are 4 levels tested, students can study & test as many or as few as they want. To stay in the club just need to see some effort from the student.
- Testing happens the last Wednesday of the month, usually in the morning. It's easy, fun volunteering! Sign ups will go home in the next few weeks.

Art Literacy – Minta Johnson

- Art literacy is a program provided by the district. The PTO buys supplies and finds volunteers to teacher the program in the classrooms.
- 6 projects throughout the year. Need at least 1 volunteer per classroom and having an assistant is great.
- There is a training for each project before the volunteers teach it in the classroom
- 1st lesson is a quilt, 2nd is Faberge
- Need volunteers for West, Serrao, Peterson, kindy (kids not assigned to kindy teachers yet)

5th Grade Sendoff

- What the 5th grade sendoff has looked like has changed over time.
- This year the teachers would like to take the kids to John's Incredible Pizza – need parents to raise money for that. Need parents to spearhead that committee.

Bylaws Revision

Summary below – changes are mostly housekeeping. All changes will go out in the newsletter at the end of September.

Section 11.01 of the PTO's bylaws provides that "These bylaws will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at minimum every three years and amended as necessary." Since the current bylaws were last amended more than three years ago, during summer 2019 the 2019-20 PTO board reviewed the bylaws. Here are the proposed amendments.

- Article VII, section 7.01b (President duties):
 - Remove "Promote PTO events using regular newsletters."
 - Purpose of proposed amendment: The newsletter is the secretary's responsibility. Moved to secretary duties section.

- Article VII, section 7.01d (Volunteer Coordinator duties):
 - Remove "and provide the school with a list of volunteers and where they are placed."
 - Remove "The volunteer coordinator is responsible for monitoring the volunteer computer and keeping its records up to date."
 - Add "Manage the volunteer database." as the last sentence of the section.
 - Purpose of these three proposed amendments is to align the bylaws with current Beaverton School District policy.

- Article VII, section 7.01e (Secretary duties):
 - Add "Promote PTO events using regular newsletters."
 - Purpose: Previously this was in the president's duties section. Moved to secretary duties section because newsletters are the secretary's responsibility.

- Article IX
 - Add section 9.01k. "All field trip expenses paid by the PTO must be used for educational purposes."
 - Purpose of this change is to clarify that the PTO's field trip budget is to be used for educational field trips.

The bylaws provide that "One month notification to all members must be given before voting on potential amendments." We will notify all members by including the proposed amendments in a PTO newsletter. Since our October general meeting is less than a month away, we will vote on these proposed changes to the PTO bylaws at the PTO general meeting on November 7, 2019.

New Business

Holly Larsen spoke about large class sizes in 4th grade and brought a flyer with people at the district to contact about the issue. The average class size in Oregon for 4th grade is 26 students but currently Fir Grove's 4th grade classes have 34 students each. Holly asked that parents advocate for lower class sizes.

Minta Johnson asked parents to think about what guest speakers they might like for general meetings. In October we have school board rep Susan Greenberg. In November we have Jon Franco from the district

to talk about options schools. For both of those folks please let Minta know in advance if you have specific questions so she can forward them on to the speakers.

Sarah Grieb spoke about the loss of a bus route. Now there are many more kids walking to school! There is a crossing guard at Allen & Menlo but no crossing guard at Allen & Wilson because the district does not want kids to cross there. Unfortunately the walk signal at Allen & Wilson is VERY short. She suggested parents contact the city regarding the length of the walk signal. The city has an online form at <https://apps.beavertonoregon.gov/secure/reportproblem/>

Agenda for Next Meeting:

- Welcome
- Approve today's agenda and minutes from previous meeting
- Guest Speaker: Susan Greenberg, Beaverton School Board
- Principal Update: Erin Miles
- President's Update: Minta Johnson
- Budget Update: Minta Johnson for Kristina Hiersche
- Volunteer Update: Lyndsay Roller
- Fundraising update: Jenn Hundt and Sarah Hinton
- Scouts update: Kari McGatha
- Committee Updates: Art Lit, Geography Club, 5th grade sendoff
- New Business
- Questions
- Meeting Adjourned

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. by Minta Johnson.