

Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in Beaverton, Oregon on November 7, 2019 by Minta Johnson.

Present

Minta Johnson, Lyndsay Roller, Jenn Hundt, Sarah Hinton, Elizabeth Ranweiler, Kari McGatha, Erin Miles, Valarie Schwisow, Dax Balzer, Maggie Munoz, Jon Franco, Patricia Rodrigues, Heather Wills, Holly Larsen, Kate Prakash, Catherine Rund, Hadeel Aljubouri, Trisha Gross, Erica Knight, Linda Feldhan, Angela Skrobish, Anne Durbetaki, Patty Hahn, Ken Ward, Erin Fortman, Brent Johnson, Bryan Reynolds, Amber Dahl, Jeff Dahl

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed. The minutes of the last meeting (October 3, 2019) were unanimously approved as distributed.

Vote on Proposed Amendments to PTO Bylaws

We proposed some amendments to the PTO bylaws at the September meeting. Since the bylaws require we give 30 days notice between proposing amendments and voting on the amendments, and the September and October general meetings were less than 30 days apart, we are voting on the changes today. We published the proposed amendments in the PTO newsletter. The proposed amendments are:

- 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.

Bylaws amendments unanimously approved. None opposed, no abstentions.

Principal Update: Erin Miles

Thanks to everyone who provided food for staff meals during conferences and who helped with the Halloween parties!

3rd grade field trip tomorrow to see “Me...Jane” about Jane Goodall

Teacher math training happening this week at Fir Grove

Safety inspections happened this month – Fir Grove passed. Yes, the district knows we have a roof leak. Maybe it will get fixed next bond?

Ms Miles is meeting with teachers to set goals for the year.

School report card came out. 59% of last year’s 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders were at or above grade level in reading. The state average for reading is 51%. 43% in math which is the same as the state level.

Counseling – Fir Grove sends home 20 food backpacks over long weekends. Fir Grove’s counselor, Ms Caryl, coordinates this. She also works with community partners to get families what they need over winter break. Also works with Operation School Bell – students get to shop for new clothing etc, which happened recently. Working on rolling out indoor recess options for grades 1 & 2 some days.

Mrs Villegas (PE teacher) will be starting jump rope club. Other things coming (dance club!) in winter and spring.

SMART reading – every Thursday K-3

The seniors from a local senior center have started reading to kindergarteners at Fir Grove and it’s awesome!

Read to me – come read to kids! Contact volunteer coordinator Lyndsay Roller if you’re interested.

Budget Update: Kristina Hiersche

October was a big month! In October and November we get the fun run income. Just over \$27,000 from Fun Run right now! More than last year (\$26K) and more than goal (\$25K)!

We also received income from employer matches. Check to see if your employer matches your donations and/or volunteer hours! We know Nike, Intel, and Verizon match. Unfortunately since sometimes it takes many months for us to receive match checks, they do not count toward your student’s individual total for prizes.

Restaurant nights – MOD pizza raised over \$200, Chipotle also raised over \$200. Both will show up on November income.

Expenses - \$800 for class parties (\$50 per classroom). Teachers are using their supply money, yay! Over \$700 paid out already.

Volunteer Update: Lyndsay Roller

Thanks for all the help with class parties and Fun Run! More than 65 volunteers helped out with class parties – awesome!

Coming up – Donuts With Your Grownup – next Friday, Nov 15. We need people to set up Nov 14 after school and to serve donuts on Nov 15 or the event won’t happen.

Cindy Keegan has requested volunteer help in the resource room. She will train you to work one on one with students. You must be able to maintain confidentiality.

Mrs Villegas wants to start a dance club in January. Contact Lyndsay if you'd like to help!

Fundraising Update: Jenn Hundt & Sarah Hinton

Great job on Fun Run!

Flyers on tables for fundraisers - Sweet Tomatoes Nov 13, which benefits 5th grade sendoff, and Piccolo Mondo toy store in Progress Ridge Nov 11-17 which can be in person or online.

There is also a toy drive being run by 5th grade leadership – you could buy toys from Piccolo Mondo and donate them to the toy drive!

Bottle Drop is still going!

Update on Boy Scouts Units 685: Kari McGatha

Going into recharter time – Kari will be contacting the board with the charter agreement.

Pack update: welcomed 2 new scouts

5th graders are going on an overnight

Sat Dec 7 – scouting for food – collecting for food drive. They CANNOT go to homes with No Soliciting signs – if you have a No Soliciting sign please put out bags of food clearly labeled with Pack 685. Scouts also have bags you can use or that can be handed out at your HOA, apartment complex, etc.

Committee Updates

Art Literacy – Minta Johnson

Faith Ringgold is wrapping up. Next up – Faberge! Check out the bulletin board! We have at least one volunteer for each classroom but could use assistants in all classrooms and can always use help prepping materials.

Geography Club

Testing coming up on Nov 20.

5th Grade Sendoff – Catherine Rund

More than \$200 raised at Chipotle restaurant night. Upcoming restaurant nights benefiting 5th grade sendoff: Sweet Tomatoes Nov 13, Noodles & Co Dec 3.

Frosty Grams will be sold Dec 9-12, proceeds go to 5th grade sendoff.

Total fundraising goal is \$2000 which should cover the party and transport. Would like to raise more to pay for memory books and a gift to Fir Grove.

Science Expo – Dax Balzer

The passing of the torch from Rhonda is happening. Dax will talk to Kristina about budget items.

Guest Speaker – Linda Feldhan – Beaverton Safe Routes to School

Linda has info for people who might like to start walking school busses. She is also available to do trainings.

She brought safety vests – those have been key, sometimes students are reluctant to approach a group of kids so it helps to know to go to the adult wearing a yellow vest.

Linda has a signup sheet, please sign up if you're interested.

Walking school busses can happen before or after school. Can also happen on bikes – that's called a bike train.

Guest Speaker – Jon Franco & Maggie Munoz – Options Schools

Jon is the executive director of high schools and options for BSD.

BSD has several options schools and has full day and half day options. To find out about a specific school or program, you should go to an open house or talk to a counselor. There's lots of info on the district website if you go to schools -> option schools programs. On the district website, the learning options page has dates for open houses.

Options schools are open to everyone, you don't have to live within the boundaries for that school.

Middle school options – ACMA (6-12), Beav Academy of Science & Tech (6-12), ISB (6-12), Rachel Carson at Five Oaks (6-8).

In high school there are lots of half day options. Auto, health careers, Terra Nova (biology and applied chemistry)

K-8s (Raleigh Hills, Springville, Aloha Huber) will not accept incoming 6th graders after next year as the K-8 model is being phased out in BSD.

Every option school has an initial lottery that's completely random. After that, second consideration happens – what second consideration looks like varies depending on the school.

Shadow days – currently only offered at ISB and Rachel Carson. Call the school to find out if they offer shadow days. You can do shadow days at some non-option schools like BHS too – follow a student through a class or a day.

Likelihood of getting in is hard to predict as the number of applicants varies from year to year. Last year ISB had 380 applications which meant a roughly 40% chance of getting in. There is sibling preference – for example, a big part of ISB second consideration is any siblings who didn't get in.

Students can get in through the lottery in any grade, not just 6th grade. There's 50-60% retention for option schools from middle to high school, so there are some spots every year. Once you're in, you're in – don't have to reapply every year once you've been admitted.

Boundary changes will not affect the option schools.

Special needs students and students with disabilities go through the lottery like everyone else. The question about disabilities is no longer on the application because BSD doesn't want that to be seen as a barrier. Previously it was on the questionnaire just to make sure that needed services were provided.

Middle Years Programme – focused on writing and character. IBSL vs IBHL – IBHL is just 11th and 12th grade. Don't have to do MYP to be successful in an IB high school.

IB is about the world around you, AP is about content. Can take IB classes freshman or sophomore year. Not true with IBHL. Sunset, Beaverton, Southridge are IB schools. Southridge may offer “singleton” AP classes but is mainly IB.

Is there anything 4th graders can do to prepare for secondary consideration? Demonstrate aptitude toward the particular focus of the school.

Early college is also an option program. Age 16+, minimum 2.0 GPA. Tigard/Tualatin & Hillsboro also do it. Total >200 kids. If a student is ready for it then this is a great option. It includes dual credit classes (get HS and college credit simultaneously).

Option school students participate in sports at their home school.

Option schools are basically the same as magnet schools.

Students can only apply to one option school. The reason for that is that there are so many applications for option schools.

You have to live in the BSD boundaries to apply. If you don't have a BSD student ID number (for example you're homeschooled) you can't apply online – have to do paper application.

Questions? Email or call Jon or Maggie. (503) 356-4500.

New Business

Marne Oyen (former Fir Grove parent) has joined the middle school boundary adjustment committee. The next meeting is Nov 21 at Conestoga Middle School at 6:30pm. Steve Sparks, who is coordinating that process, is our guest speaker next month (December).

Agenda for Next Meeting:

- Welcome
- Approve today's agenda and minutes from previous meeting
- Principal Update: Erin Miles
- Budget Update: 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
- Guest Speaker: Jennifer Wolfe, Beaverton City Library
- New Business
- Questions
- Meeting Adjourned

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by Minta Johnson.