

Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization was called to order at 7:11 p.m. in Beaverton, Oregon on January 9, 2020 by Minta Johnson.

Present

Minta Johnson, Kristina Hiersche, Lyndsay Roller, Jenn Hundt, Sarah Hinton, Elizabeth Ranweiler, Kari McGatha, Erin Miles, Catherine Rund, Hadeel Aljubouri, Jennifer Curry, Kate Prakash, Anne Durbetaki, Sharon Juenemann, Ashley Gannett, Erin Fortman, Stephanie Morris, Deb Starr

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed. The minutes of the last meeting (December 5, 2019) were unanimously approved as distributed.

Principal Update: Erin Miles

Inclement weather – school closed, late start, early release – if you’ve signed up you will get text, email, voice call from the district. There are 50 microclimates in BSD. If weather is bad in one of them it affects the decision on whether the whole district opens.

If there is a 2 hour delay, school at FG starts at 10am. If your students eat breakfast at school, they get to go to breakfast at school at 10am. Early dismissal decisions usually happen after lunch.

Honoring differences – multicultural assemblies

- Yesterday there was a K-3 assembly – Pegasus Puppet Group presenting “Vain Little Mouse”
- Jan 30 – Eth-Noh-Tec – all grades

Family literacy night has been postponed. Tentatively rescheduled for sometime in March.

New staff – principal secretary Karla Portillo is at FG now! She is bilingual. Also new night custodian Alma Ledford. There is also a student teacher in Mrs Hausman’s class who is doing all the teaching!

Next year FG will not have Head Start – instead will have pre-K. 18 morning students + 18 afternoon students. 1 FT teacher and 2 FT assistants.

Library mural – link in the Fir Grove Flyer to vote for the theme doesn’t work. Erin will send out the link again.

Report cards are now completely online. There is a ParentVue app. Remember that the grades are indicative of year end goals – it’s ok to have 1s and 2s right now!

FG is doing some professional development with Vose and PlayWorks regarding recess.

Since we’ve been back from break, behavior has been great!

FG is looking at having Shadow Project bring a SuperSensory Space to Fir Grove to work alongside the Social Emotional Learning Center to help reduce the impact of trauma, anxiety, etc. on Fir Grove students. Deb Starr will be in charge of Shadow Project for the school. Sharon Juenemann will talk about this later in the meeting.

Budget Update: Kristina Hiersche

December is a light month. \$386 in income, spent \$829. Spending will go up as we go into spring.

The income was mainly employer matching and we have more coming in! Yay! Also some Fun Run money is still trickling in and \$115 from Fred Meyer Rewards.

Expenses – OBOB tshirts, prepaid K field trip, geo club spending, PTO supplies (checks), teacher supplies.

January – Kristina just deposited a \$250 Box Tops check. Parent question – could people hand in receipts to have volunteers scan them for Box Tops? There is a 2 week window to submit receipts so that's probably not doable. Has the Sweet Tomatoes check come in yet? Not sure, Kristina will check.

Volunteer Update: Lyndsay Roller

So far this year we've had 94 volunteers with 364 hours! Wow!

Upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- Clothes Closet Feb 5 – need more volunteers. Can you bring kids? Lyndsay will find out.
- Valentine's Day parties Feb 14 – sign up with Lyndsay.
- Dance club starting next Wednesday after school – more than 60 kids signed up! Wow!! Need volunteers. Younger kids can come too.

Fundraising Update: Jenn Hundt & Sarah Hinton

- Tonight – 5 Guys – great turnout!!
- Upcoming – Crumbl Cookies Feb 13 – they give the PTO 50%! The Crumbl fundraiser \$\$ will go to the general PTO account, not 5th Grade Sendoff.
- Fun Run prizes go home tomorrow – raffles at the assembly
- Bottle Drop making lots of money! Keep those bottlescans coming!
- No contest going on for Box Tops but still keep collecting them and sending them to FG.

Update on Boy Scouts Units 685: Kari McGatha

- Troop has their own EIN so will file their own taxes. They will also give all that info to Kristina by this weekend.
- A scout completed their Eagle Scout project by doing a project in the Fir Grove courtyard.
- The troop has one new volunteer who was a scout and Eagled out.
- Coming up – overnight at Evergreen Aviation, snow day, XC skiing
- Recharter is complete
- Pack has welcomed 2 new lions (kindergarten level) – they go to Bonny Slope and Arco Iris.
- Lots of scouts doing science!
- Scouts are brainstorming for a late spring project at Fir Grove. Let Kari know if you have ideas.

Committee Updates

Art Literacy – Minta Johnson

Training yesterday – Joan Miró – abstract

Geography Club

Going strong! Started with almost 90 kids, now have 79 who are regularly studying every month. Always can use more volunteers for testing! Next test is January 22.

5th Grade Sendoff – Catherine Rund

- \$250 raised from Frostygrams! Will do something similar (Valograms?) sometime in spring. Turns out not allowed to sell candy at school though. Something little from Oriental Trading instead?
- Sendoff is about halfway to their fundraising goal!
- Next restaurant night for 5th Grade Sendoff will be at Baja Fresh in February

New Business – Sharon Juenemann – Shadow Project

Shadow Project has been around for about 15 years. Mission is to make school more accessible for kids with learning challenges. The SuperSensory Spaces that Shadow Project creates are designed to proactively help kids. They are installed and maintained by Shadow Project. The goal is for the space to be a part of the school and for teachers to be aware of it. The space can be as small as a 5x7 space and they can arrange a demonstration or open house once it's set up at Fir Grove. A typical session in the SuperSensory Space is 10 minutes long – child led, guided by an adult. The guides are typically staff – paraeducators, Deb Starr, etc. Use zones of regulation at check in. They have had a lot of success with students learning to regulate. At Fir Grove the recommendation is to start with a SuperSensory Space because that integrates well with the Social Emotional Learning Center.

Which students receive services in the SuperSensory Space? How do students get referred there? The team will come up with a list. Typically 10-15 students at a given school. 10 minutes at a time. Some students once a day, some 3 times a day. Recommend that students not go to the SuperSensory Space when they're in the red zone/dysregulated.

Student Success Act funds – Sharon has met with Patrick Meigs (district administrator for elementary schools) to talk about FG maybe being a pilot.

Goal Setting is another option Shadow Project offers – but the setup at Fir Grove doesn't work well with the goal setting option.

To make the SuperSensory Space happen the PTO would need to contribute \$2600, which covers the rest of this school year and next school year (2020-21). The PTO has the money to make it happen, but the bylaws require we present it and then vote at the next meeting. So we will vote on this at our February general meeting.

Guest Speaker – Deb Starr, Fir Grove's Student Success Coach

This is Deb's first year as a Student Success Coach (SSC). Before that she spent 25 years as a classroom teacher, including 14 years in Southern California Title I schools. Title I schools are near and dear to her heart.

Half of the SSC job is supporting teachers specifically. This is observing classrooms, professional development with teachers, co-teaching including the Harmony social-emotional learning lessons (which are free!), community circles, and building community. Why work on building community? Because if there's no community then when someone is dysregulated you want to push them away. With this work we see students saying "he's having a hard time, I know what helps him" when they see a dysregulated student.

Deb is safety care trained – she can restrain a child if needed. Most of the training is about how to avoid restraint.

She also meets with staff members individually about students.

She also has students come in for 15 minute slots – they must be in the green zone – to engage in some social emotional learning.

She also gets to be at 4th & 5th grade lunch and 4th grade recess and be a joiner if support is needed in the classroom. She's also an OBOB mentor!

This is the third official year of every school having a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) as a SSC.

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: Steve Sparks, middle school boundary adjustments
- New Business
- Questions
- Meeting Adjourned

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m. by Minta Johnson.