

Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization General Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization was called to order at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom video chat on October 1, 2020 by Minta Johnson.

Present

(via Zoom)

Minta Johnson, Kristina Hiersche, Jenn Hundt, Sarah Hinton, Lyndsay Roller, Elizabeth Ranweiler, Erin Miles, Trisha Gross, Kate Prakash, Ariana Alejandres, Tamara Ward, Melissa Anderson, Melissa Carrick, Kari McGatha, Valerie Roberts

Approval of Minutes (via Zoom poll)

The minutes of the last meeting (September 17, 2020) were approved as distributed with 11 members in favor of approval and 4 abstaining.

Vote on proposed amendments to bylaws (via Zoom poll)

Minta described the proposed amendments. They are on the PTO website and have been sent out in newsletters and email a few times. They fall into two categories – (1) making it so that the board can act in an emergency, still requiring the board to bring anything requiring a vote to the general membership as soon as possible, and (2) adding a member-at-large position

Question: Is the member-at-large position a voting position? The proposed amendments don't spell it out.

Answer: Yes, it is a voting position. One of the amendments makes member-at-large an officer. All officer positions are voting positions. The bylaws don't spell out in individual officer positions that each position is a voting position.

The proposed amendments were approved with 11 members in favor of approval and 4 abstaining.

Board elections (via Zoom poll)

Nominated and elected:

Minta Johnson as president (12 members in favor of approval and 3 abstaining)

Jenn Hundt as co-VP/fundraising (12 members in favor of approval and 3 abstaining)

Sarah Hinton as co-VP/fundraising (12 members in favor of approval and 3 abstaining)

Liz Ranweiler as secretary (12 members in favor of approval and 3 abstaining)

Lyndsay Roller as co-Volunteer Coordinator (11 members in favor of approval and 4 abstaining)

Valerie Roberts as co-Volunteer Coordinator (12 members in favor of approval and 3 abstaining)

Tamara Ward as Treasurer (11 members in favor of approval and 4 abstaining)

Ariana Alejandres as Member At Large (11 members in favor of approval and 4 abstaining)

Trisha Gross as Member At Large (12 members in favor of approval and 3 abstaining)

Kate Prakash as Member At Large (12 members in favor of approval and 3 abstaining)

Principal Update: Erin Miles

- Thank you to everyone who brought food for staff on Meet The Teacher day!
- Over 350 people participated in community walk organized by Mrs Villegas
- First principal chat is tomorrow at 2:30pm. Bring any topics you'd like to discuss! We will talk about working at home with kids, zones of regulation, and whatever else folks want to talk about.
- Next Wednesday, Oct 7, will be an all-day school day because there is no school on Oct 9
- October 14 will be the first Fir Grove assembly! It will be recorded and available on Seesaw and Canvas. There will be 1 recorded assembly each month on a Wednesday.

- There will be a live assembly the last Friday of each month at 8am. This month that is October 30 – students can wear a costume!
- Jan’s Bookstore got a grant to have books donated to the Fir Grove library! Mrs Donnelly is getting those books checked in and available. Remember that library books are available for checkout on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to noon at lunch pickup!
- The district recently announced that the new return to school date is Feb 8 for 4th & 5th grade. A K-3 decision will be made by October 19. Reminder that “return to school” means switch from CDL to hybrid.
- No back to school night this year because teachers are reaching out to families individually. Reach out to your student’s teacher if you have questions.
- Survey going out on Monday about Title I funds and the parent compact. Please complete it!
- If you see something strange in the Zoom backgrounds of other students, let their teacher or Erin know. Zoom sessions are recorded each day and teachers are supposed to post them the next day so that students who missed them can view them.
- Remember that attendance is recorded each day. Right now Fir Grove has 95% attendance!
- Teachers are working well over 40 hours each week. Please support them and give them positive feedback!
- If you need help with food or clothing, contact Erin or Moe Caryl, the school counselor

Question: How can we support staff since they’re not at school?

Answer: You can drop items off at the office. Staff will contact the person the item is for and they can come pick it up. Remember there is a gift limit of \$50 per family per teacher.

Budget Update: Kristina Hiersche

About \$47K in assets right now (cash + savings + short term CDs)

September income

- \$117 from Fred Meyer rewards

September expenses – total just over \$2700

- \$200 for Fun Run bibs
- \$1800 for school supplies which includes about \$1000 for kindy play-based learning supplies
- \$340 scouts check (we are a passthrough for this –check from Benevity, which is hourly volunteer matching for Intel, Nike, etc employees, to scouts)
- \$35 from science expo for last year
- \$180 for staff meals – gift cards that Erin gave to staff
- \$166 teacher supplies *note that each teacher can get reimbursed for up to \$250 in supplies this year*

Volunteer Update

Not much to report. If you want to volunteer, reach out to your child’s teacher. The rule is that there have to be 2 adults in each Zoom room.

Fundraising Update

Bottle drop is going strong! Pick up blue bags at lunch pickup. You can leave full bags by the trash enclosure after lunch pickup, Jenn swings by every T/Th. Jenn has scheduled a mass drop for Oct 7 and already has about 80 bags to drop off! Bottle drop questions? Email bottledrop@firgrovepto.com

Fun Run is virtual this year! Each family will be able to pick up their fun run packet, which includes a cool bib for the kids to wear. Then run Fri/Sat/Sun and take a video that we can post! Count minutes run, not laps. We want to raise as much as we can this year so we’re in a good spot next year.

Scouts Update

Pack has one new scout. They have been doing small, socially distant, masked den meetings. First pack meeting was on Zoom last week. 4 volunteers renewed their youth protection training. They are recruiting for more scouts!

Troop meets at the church across Allen. They are having meetings on Zoom and some hybrid meetings. Events coming up – campout, Farmers Market parking lot fundraiser, 4 mile bike ride this Saturday.

Committee Updates

Art Lit – Minta Johnson

The district isn't doing the usual art lit program this year. They're encouraging getting art materials into kids hands. Minta is working on that.

Geography Club

Stephanie Morris sent an email about doing geography club from home (grades 2-5).

5th Grade Sendoff

Still recruiting committee members.

New business

Question: It can be hard to find the links to general meetings in email. Can they be shared on social media or on the PTO website?

Answer: No, unfortunately the district does not allow that. Erin can calendar an email with the link to be sent out 15 minute before the meeting. Unfortunately it doesn't work to do recurring zooms.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m. by Minta Johnson.

Agenda for next general meeting (November 5, 2020)

- Welcome
- Approve today's agenda and minutes from previous meeting
- Principal Update: Erin Miles
- Budget Update: Tamara Ward
- Volunteer Update: Lyndsay Roller and Valerie Roberts
- Fundraising update: Jenn Hundt and Sarah Hinton
- Scouts update: Kari McGatha
- Committee Updates: Art Lit, Geo Club, 5th grade sendoff
- New Business
- Questions
- Meeting Adjourned