

PTA MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

6:30 p.m. Call to Order - Lara Gates

Attendance – Recognition of Quorum, Trustee Introductions

Next year's PTA board members:

- Jessica Lieder and Daniel Sakai- Co-presidents
- Julie Davenport – VP 1
- Steve Gillespie – VP 2
- Alisa Loigman – Treasurer
- Rachel Kennedy – Secretary

Approval of Minutes of previous meeting – motion: Stacey McReynolds, Second: Ginger Tyson.
Motion passes unanimously

6:40 p.m. Administrative Updates

Foundation/Imagine Campaign Report – Julie Morgan

- Past foundation meeting was held on the 5th. There was structural changes
 - Created new ex officio position – standing PTA board member. You will have voting privileges. We did this to continue transparency and get the input from the PTA. If you are interested see Julie.
 - New officers
 - Julie Morgan – continuing as president
 - Jill Baltan – VP
 - Toni Jean Rushing – Treasurer
 - Dana Hoefer – Secretary
 - Ongoing discussion: A need for more differentiated schools. We are raising money for funds that will continue to enrich our students. Thank you for your support.
- Imagine Campaign - \$56K raised so far. We are almost to our goal. Going for the final push. We are asking for those that haven't given to consider giving. Focusing on getting % of families participating up – currently at 22%

Interim Principal Update- Bruce McGirr

- Between now and school close there is a lot going on
 - Concerts, talent shows, promotions, etc. A lot of opportunities to spend time on campus. Look for notices.
 - Principal selection process – At the 5/26 board meeting the principal will be named. Mitzi Moreno was here at school on Monday. She indicated that person will come on board before end of school year. May be able to attend 8th grade promotion. It's not only our principal that will be announced - Number of principals will be named.
 - Stacey McReynolds and Lara Gates were the parent representatives on the interview panel. We also had others serve on the panel
 - Candidates were interviewing for multiple schools
 - Superintendent makes the final decision, but takes interviewees recommendations seriously
 - Post and bid is going on right now – we have a couple of openings
 - PE/Spanish
 - .6 Social Studies
 - English position
 - All interviews for open positions may be later this month. Bid closes on 5/23
 - Changes at elementary level coming

- Right now looking at grade 1/grade 2 combo – looking at Mrs. Kidder to teach the combo class
 - If numbers are higher in September we would look at a separate class. If that happens there may be space issues.
 - Moving some bungalows due to construction
- Projecting 3 Kindergarten classrooms – Spingola will move back to K2 classroom next year.
- TK (transitional kindergarteners) – this year it was in K2. Proposal is to combine TKers with kindergarteners next school year. All 3 classes will be blended. TK and Kindergarteners are a blind draw – we don't have any demographics on these students
 - If we get too many students – we could utilize one of the extra labs for classrooms
 - We will not get any more portable classrooms
- Slope restoration is still going on – we are dealing with it
- Next heavy construction work will happen in Dec. Some things will be moved this summer.
- Plan for 4th grade and 5th – (3) 4th and 5th grade class planned for next year.
 - Conard moving to 4th. Zizzo moving to 4th. Snyder staying in 4th. Wollitz having straight 5th grade class
 - Mrs. Bryant is bidding out. Other than that staff will be stable
- Caveat: new principal could change plans mentioned above

ASB Report – Ms. Farson

- Final spirit day – up to teacher's to support "final day" – formal day. ASB cannot support.
- ASB has taken on talent show and are figuring out details for 8th grade dance
- 8th grade dance – harbor cruise
 - MS teachers have been invited
 - Approximately 75 people will be attending
 - Scheduled for last school day for students at 7pm
 - Completely organized by ASB president – Elizabeth Gravitz
- ASB is doing the work on talent show
 - Night show scheduled: Friday, June 12th
 - Day time performances – previous Tuesday and Wednesday
 - Pulling out kids on Monday for run through and filming – for \$5 dollars parents/families can purchase video. Digital class is going to film
 - 50 people auditioned – couldn't pick everyone
 - ASB students made the bulk of decisions
 - Information on show will be in Grant Blast
 - If you made it you will get a letter with details
 - Anyone that didn't make it – there will be group sing. Elizabeth is organizing
 - Recently spent \$1,200 to purchase lights and sound system with additional mics (money came from magazine sale)

Book Fair Report – Lara Gates

- Raised 54% more this book fair than last year. Brought in almost \$8K (most is scholastic dollars)
 - Will be using it to fulfill all teacher's book needs
 - Between both book fairs – raised close to \$20K
 - Thank you to Holly De La Vega and all volunteers

Grant School Science Olympiad Thank You – Denise Santoro and Julia Young (future Olympiad)

- Just finished 5th year of Science Olympiad
- Julia presented 2015 Science Olympiad photo journal
- You can choose different events
- To do science Olympiad have to be 5th grade and up

- Really good activity. Part of the school climate – tons of different categories (astronomy, physics, mapping, mouse trap, etc)
 - The kids get to use labs after school
 - Scientists come in to volunteer
- Big thank you to Denise for coordinating every year
- We need coaches so we can do more events – see Denise if you are interested – go to MS page on webpage under clubs there is contact info. You don't have to be a scientist to volunteer.
- Time frame for commitment is September – February.

7:05 p.m. Information Items

Middle School Schedule – Steve Gillespie

- A letter went home to parents (2 sided) – 1 from administration and 1 from teachers
 - There has been some controversy
 - Issue 1: MS teachers have elected to drop advisory period. Eliminates a long standing tradition of clubs.
 - Issue 2: Concern from parents with lack of transparency/parental involvement with the decision
 - MS teachers debated and worked on decision for months
 - We were not aware that it was up to the teachers to disseminate info or that the SSC/SGT wanted to be involved.
 - There have been changes every year. To Steve's knowledge there has been no involvement by SGT in the past (can't find anything in the bylaws). Disagreement by parents; SGT has been involved in past years.
- Long standing priority – establish full classrooms of students. Due to fluctuations of class size there has been changes in schedule through out the years at Grant
 - This year we finally have 3 full grades. To make that work we moved from 5 periods + advisory to 6 periods + advisory. Moved to rotating/block schedule. Meet with each class 4 times a week.
 - Majority of MS teachers felt the rolling block was not meeting our needs. No way to fit in advisory without lowering class time to 45 mins
 - Move forward plan: 6 periods a day – 55 mins. 1 period will be 65 mins (home room type class). Continue to offer 2 electives (7th and 8th grade only). If students elect to have 2 electives than they will have to take an after school PE class (tentative - 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wed and Thurs)). That leaves 2 after school times that we can have clubs – based on teacher availability
 - Gillespie and Kerr are doing ASB during lunch time
 - Electives – Music, Art, Spanish (still working on Spanish classes; possibly an intro to Spanish class – should be determined by June 8th), and Digital Media
 - JMUN and academic league would be addressed as an after school club – based on teacher's availability
 - We cannot add another elective – not enough teachers and students
 - Parent question: How does this plan compare to other MS?
 - Comprehensive MS can support more electives. Some schools have advisory clubs but majority do not
 - Principal comment – Grant's MS program has gone way past expectations. Expectation was set with initial parents that we can't offer a comprehensive MS but we trade off with not transitioning to another school
 - We do have more than some other MS offerings
 - Becky Gillespie (parent) comment: Looked at other schedules at MS in area 5 – no one else had advisory in their schedules. None of the other K8s offered the number of electives we do. We were closest to Roosevelt's offering. The only thing Roosevelt offered that we won't is an actual ASB class. They had clubs outside of regular class schedules
 - If you want to see the new schedule – see Steve Gillespie

- Note: Teachers feedback from Pt. Loma HS. Grant students are most prepared. Other students state that Grant kids are more prepared for HS than others. Steve's opinion - The rigor sets them up for success not the clubs

PTA Budget for Next School Year – Alisa Loigman

- Big ticket items for next year
 - Science Coordinator (Elena Banks) – giving her a pay increase for next year
 - Increase art exposure – currently have Joe Niery, we are keeping Joe. Adding Sarah Ekedal (supplement, similar to Joe but different exposure). Adding art docent program – based on volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering let PTA know
 - Parent question: Are teacher's supporting additional art? Yes, teachers are supportive. We surveyed every teacher. Art is something they are behind.
 - Parent idea: The teacher could lead student lead art projects and auction off on gala. Idea would be to do art show next year
 - Volunteers for docent program. Parent idea: Have a parent identified as "art parent". Room reps to reach out as soon as classes are identified
 - Subscriptions – this last year we did First in Math
 - Looking at more stuff that supplement math, reading, current events
 - Exact programs have not been identified
 - A few teachers (Steinberg and Zizzo) are surveying the rest of the teachers – waiting for feedback
 - We currently have \$12,500 earmarked
- Parent comment – are we going to help with 6th grade trip – answer: No
- Smaller items
 - Hospitality – community building events. Looking for volunteers
 - Support library with books
 - Book fair is a \$0 item. Anything considered "profit" is received as scholastic dollars (not real money)
- Parent questions: After school clubs. Are teachers compensated for doing clubs? Answered from Mr. McGirr is No. It's not an obligation and we can't demand it. We don't want it to be forced.
 - The PTA does pay to send people to events that are centered around clubs
- Eliminating teacher stipend – put more dollars towards subscriptions, field trips and assemblies.
- Budgeted \$15K for general school supplies. Exact items TBD. Used as discretionary funds as need arises
- Lowered expectation on Grant Gala – brought down to \$30K (what we will earn). Reduced expenses as well
- Strategy: do smaller, less time intensive events. Example: Wine event, another one scheduled for October.
- Budget is on the website for reference
- Vote on budget will be in June meeting. Any questions see Alisa before next meeting.

Financial Update – Alisa Loigman

- To date, netting about \$5k. Doesn't include Imagine Campaign monies. Doesn't include book fair. There are a few other expenses that are outstanding. We are going to end up with a big surplus. A lot of big ticket items don't need to be spent from PTA funds this year, example: Music teacher.
- Projection to roll over next year is a high number (not final yet) – we should be good to cover initial expenses for next year. We pay art and science staff on a monthly basis.
- Motion to ratify net expenses from April 2015 in the amount of \$8,710.21 including checks #3797 to #3804. Motion: Alisa Loigman, Second: Kirsten Ravoula. No discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

Gala and Auction Update – Lara Gates

- Netted \$18,400 from event
- Thank you to the parent volunteers

- We need volunteers next year to help with all the events PTA does. Only about 6 people were full time volunteers on the gala; it was not enough help.

7:50 p.m. Roundtable

- Big thank you to the Imagine Campaign and all the work that has been done. The numbers go up every year.
- Toni Jean Rushing – technology is a big focus at the school. Cyber safety is a big issue. People are working on an assembly – scheduled for first week of school
 - Cyber bullying is a focus as well
 - Someone comes into the MS every 3 years – district sends someone out. Parent suggestion: should bring it in every year.
- Ginger Tyson
 - Right now is testing season. Self test for second language children going on. Results will come in end of next week. Assembly will be held.
 - Just finished CST test – Science test (5th and 7th grade) – pencil and paper test
 - Smart and Balance test coming (Grades 3-8th). Computer test
 - Math placement test (grade 5, 6 and 8) – pencil and paper test. Coming in this Thursday. Handled by Math teachers and 5th grade teachers.
- Anne Anthony – taking 60 kids to the Junior Model United Nations – JMUN - (6th – 8th graders) tomorrow, May 20th
 - Do require professional dress – they will look like different kids
 - Will be at USD until 4 pm
 - Researching topics all year that are topics of the UN
 - We have 4-5 kids in each committee
 - At the end of the day there is an invented crisis – they write resolution based on UN model. They write it down in 2 pages or less
 - Review back at conference and then do an award session
 - Parent suggestion (Karen Evenson): JMUN should be an elective offered in MS.

7:56 p.m. Adjourn