

# Jefferson Elementary PTA Minutes

September 10, 2018

**Meeting called to order: 7:06**

## **Welcome/Introduction**

Ericka introduced herself and gave a quick overview of her goals as President this year.

## **Principal Report:**

Warm welcome to our new Principal, Mr. Bruce. I've never seen this many folks at a PTO meeting before, so that is great. This is your school so if you ever have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to ask myself or Esther and we will get those questions answered. I've asked so many questions over the last 2 months, getting to know Jefferson. This is my 25<sup>th</sup> year as Elementary school level principal. He comes to us from Richland, and prior to that he lived in the Lewiston/Clarkston area. He feels like he is coming home again. His wife works for WSU and has for 12 ½ years with the last 2 ½ years commuting to Pullman from Tri-Cities.

I would like to thank the PTA for all the hard work they put in on the staff lounge. This has been an extremely busy year this year in our district. There are 10 new staff members at Jefferson this year. A full-time Counselor has been hired this year (Abby Vilanofx (sp)) and she has jumped right in working with students and staff. Meg Conley, new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, is not new to district, but new to this school. All of our teachers have worked really hard to create a great classroom environment, not only with the look but also how they welcome children every day.

New school arrival policy – how this came about. Moving to a new school children would be upset, some in tears, and multiple issues before we got the day started but we wanted to start on a positive note. One thing we did was have students line up outside. It was a difficult task to get 600 children through 2 doors in the AM. First bell was at 8:40 so we would get a lot of children to arrive before that first bell. If they came in at 8:00 they sat and ate breakfast or sat on the other side and could socialize with their friends, color, read and just hang there. It worked pretty well and we had a lot of success with it. At 8:30 they would get dismissed from the cafeteria and head up to the hallway outside their classroom. We knew it would be loud, they weren't expected to sit there and not talk, just couldn't yell. Teachers would come out and welcome the kids into the classroom. The intent is not to keep them from talking but that's how the letter came out. Extremely busy location with a lot of children playing at one time – there is a potential for some accidents to happen. As a staff got together to vote – the large majority were 4's to 5's and that's when we decided to go ahead and give it a try. After feedback they got back together as a staff to revisit, pump the brakes and slow down, look at it and re-examine it and things we could do to eliminate the overcrowding in the AM. Wanted to share at tonight's meeting so people could ask questions. Questions/concerns? Do you plan to change anything than what you have in mind? Right now we will maintain status quo until Staff has a chance to reconvene and discuss future plans. Concern that is brought up is that most Bullying takes place in lines and in hallways even though the kids have the freedom. Another concern is that parents have

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been saying that they will be bringing their kids at the last minute- creating a rush hour time. Another question is it more safety based or was it....New to school, new to Pullman and while the mad rush to come in was crazy but once she saw it in the hall she LOVED the staff and felt that the staff was really great at making all the kids feel welcome. Meg thinks that some of the craziness has to do with the newness of the school year so we may have to wait a couple weeks to see how the new system and that kids need more play time, not less. What is the plan for inclement weather? Much more feedback was brought to Mr. Bruce's attention. Please feel free to email any additional concerns or feedback. Thank you for the welcome!

## **Teacher's Minute (new)**

This is a new portion that we wanted to add to the agenda to include Teacher input. Would any teachers like to say anything. Horne apologizes for not writing enough Thank you's over the past year. PTA has already provided some wonderful treats and got the staff room ready. Minks says thanks for the Learning lab.

## **Treasure's Report**

Since we were off for the summer, we didn't do anything so treasurer's report is the year-end report. Next month will reflect any changes made over the course of the month.

## **Committee updates**

Art Docent- Heather Carter: Already hot and heavy right now because we are working on getting an Art Docent for every class. WSU students will be added to this. Thinking outside the box to maybe establish grade level teams.

Book Fair- October 22-26 Tuesday is the late day, 16<sup>th</sup> is the set up day.

Box Tops- 24-28 September: it is amazing how much money can be brought through these, kids get excited about the ice cream party. Looking for volunteers to help clip box tops, add

Drama club- hoping to meeting the last Monday of the month (24<sup>th</sup>), won't meet in December and will end in May. Emailed Esther to reserve the multipurpose room

Fundraiser- Sept 28-Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, changing up theme looking for volunteers to help hand out prizes, this is where we need the most help. Still donation-based fundraiser, just different theme. Intro to Get Movin' crew for new parents. FYI this will be Meg's last year because she will be moving to Kamiak next year.

Green Team-last year we worked on Water Conservation and we will officially get our Green Flag sometime this year. Not sure what we will work on this year at this time.

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T-shirts- only 1 of the old version left. Two new options to view and provide feedback. One option comes from College Hill Prints, one from Fresh Prints. New possible payment option might be available to let parents go online and pay. Last of the old shirts are \$5 each.

Membership- fill out your envelopes \$12 for individual, \$20 for family must be a paid member to be a committee chair.

Movie Night – I have already picked the dates, first one is in October.

Outdoor classroom- moving along, this Wednesday the outdoor classroom will be presented to the school board because they seemed really interested, 6:30 in the community room at the HS. Meg and a few officers will be in attendance. Jenn Harbour interested in joining our committee as well. Meg went into a few details of some of the features of the plans. We are also working with the district to use some of the maintenance staff. Also working with WSU class for some free labor. Looking into Contractors this week so we will be starting soon.

Poem in the Pocket- Jaclyn – not here.

Snack Pantry- October 5<sup>th</sup> will be first day that food will go home. Now under Pullman Childwelfare, have about \$40,000 now pretty sustainable for at least 3 years. Wanted to bring on Sunnyside this year and they were all ready to go and then backed out at the beginning of the summer. There will be a sign up genius going around for volunteers

Staff Appreciation- Started the year getting the Staff room ready to use. Always looking for volunteers to help now and then. There is sheet for dietary restrictions for teachers

## **Empty positions**

Please take a look at the empty positions and let Ericka know if you are interested. Tiffany Jackson- bus driver treats and newsletter, Brandon- Reader board/bulletin board/ BBQ . If you are signed up as a committee chair and don't actually want to do it, also let me know.

## **New Business**

Possibility of moving the meeting day from the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. Laura motions to move meeting to first Tuesday. Heather Carter seconds. Approved by majority. Meg opposes.

Meeting Adjourned- 8:23