

## January 2019 PTSA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

1. Meeting called to order at 10:06am.
2. December minutes were approved as written and stand as presented (Samar Herrmann).
3. Principal's Report (Mr. Terry):
  - a. Testing Season: first round happening today for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Highly Capable Program; further testing will build from there depending on individuals' results; qualifiers will begin 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in the fall at Apollo; parents will notice stop-signs on the doors since any interruption must be noted on each student's test form; test makeups will be next week
  - b. Intervention Group "ASAP": grew from 6 groups of students last year to 8 groups of students this year including a very intense language development program where students read and compare passages; they meet before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays until Spring Break
  - c. School Staffing/Other: have conducted further interviews for the two open positions with some good candidates who will hopefully fill those positions; also, two additional students are moving into Mrs. Campbell's LRC classroom, which means that the new class-size (9 students instead of 7) will qualify for another staffing member, so more interviews will happen soon
  - d. School Staffing/Teachers: number of classrooms for each grade has been finalized for next school-year, leading to some shifts; specifically, there will be five classrooms for each grade kindergarten through 2, and there will be four classrooms for each grade 3 through 5; parents can note that because of the classroom shifts, current grade teachers are subject to change; teachers are to notify Mr. Terry in advance of any known changes to their teaching plans, such as retirement or moving away
  - e. District Staffing: there are several district-wide changes based on growing/changing needs and on new construction, such as a qualified engineer (current person retiring at age of 70), director, and new Assistant Principal position; these have all been posted in the district internally, but if no interest, will open to the public
  - f. Bobcat Mascot: Mrs. Fields came to meeting in-costume to thank the PTSA; school is working with the students to officially name the mascot
  - g. Watch Dogs: Mr. Terry took a peak at the number of forms turned in, and there are already more than 60 and they're not even due until next week on Tuesday January 22!

- h. Cultural Connections: next meeting is on Tuesday January 22 at 9:45am; these meetings have been a good opportunity for members of our community to clarify any confusions, misunderstandings, etc.; as we have more meetings, the content is becoming “deeper” with a greater understanding for each other; relating to building our community, new families to our school have been directly welcomed by both a “partnership liaison” as well Nina Scoffone, who have reached out to them directly
- i. Kindergarten Registration: information session will be held on Monday February 11 from 5-6pm to spell out and cover all information; this coming year’s kindergarten class will be the first class with complete online registration; once paperwork is returned, families can sign up for the pre-screening assessment that happens in March; sessions last only about 10 minutes
- j. Teacher Work Day: when students are out of school on Monday January 28, ISD will have a “district day;” all elementary teachers and staff throughout the district will attend a 1.5-hour outside speaker presentation at the Issaquah High School auditorium with a school-specific follow-up session back at their respective schools
- k. District Cultural Diversity: in both February and March, there will be 90-minute cultural diversity gatherings at Sunset and Cougar Ridge presented by the district; it will be larger scale than our Cultural Connections meetings but with a similar focus
- l. District Plan/Academic Goal: a 7-page plan was submitted to the district for our school’s 3-year academic reading goal (the previous 3-year-plan was focused on math); the ultimate goal is to have 92% of our students in grades 3-5 test above the standard; currently, there are about 87% who are at that level; this program is for our students currently in grades 1-3; the other part of the goal is to shrink the performance gap between students, so about 40 students have been targeted to raise their performance to one level higher in order to try to close this gap; to achieve this, more staffing is needed; the reading specialist Ms. Daily is on-site three days per week and is literally unable to serve all students in-need; having a partner will allow her to reach these students, but a specific dollar-amount is unknown, so Mr. Terry proposed adding a “School Support” line-item to the PTSA budget that would be fluid/open to change depending on the specific need

4. President's Report (Nina Scoffone):

- a. Lunar New Year Celebration (on behalf of Libby Liu): celebration will be held on Wednesday February 6 from 6-8pm in the MPR; Libby Liu has spearheaded this project and has assembled a team of 20 or so moms; they will bring various food samplings and tastings that students can "purchase," but are still looking for a couple more items; they are also working on confirming dragon dancers; will have a presentation on the overhead so this will also be an educational opportunity for the kids; also looking for other cultures to help; there's a 45% Asian community at Cougar Ridge
- b. Nomination Committee: there will be several open Executive Board positions next school year; details will come out soon

5. Committee Reports:

a. Outreach:

- i. School Community Garden (Carissa Saffel on behalf of Lia Facchine): quite a bit of discussion; Lia had presented the idea to the Site Council but needed some additional information, such as specific location, cost/budget, and so on; other elementary schools such as Sunset, Grand Ridge and maybe one other have gardens, so Lia will meet with them and circle back to the PTSA with more information; the purpose of the garden will tie into the common-core ideas that our students are learning and will have common-core-aligned themes; this will be fully parent-led where interested parents would provide full man-power, such as our Art Docent Program or Green Team Club, with no expectations from the staff to incorporate into their curriculum unless they'd want to; questions arose such as, (1) will it be open to the public during summer break, (2) who will maintain it, (3) can those who maintain it come to school property during off-hours, (4) where will the water come from, (5) will it just have "active plants" during the school year with no plants over the summer, and so on; Lia is aware of these concerns so will cover these questions and gauge the specific needs from the other schools that have gardens; once these further details have been gathered, she will attend the February PTSA meeting to present all information; Mr. Terry will ultimately have to approve the garden
- ii. Spelling Bee (Danielle Kolesnikov): will be held on Wednesday January 30 and Thursday January 31 from 5-7pm, with the Champion Round to close out the competition on the 31<sup>st</sup> from 7:15-7:45pm; two teachers are confirmed to help on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and Mr. Terry will help on the 31<sup>st</sup>; 30 students have signed up, which is less than last year's 50 or so, so Kid Mail will go out to help raise interest; all supplies are ready

- iii. Heritage Festival (Nina Scoffone on behalf of Shamitha Sridharan): there will be a meeting tomorrow, Wednesday January 16 for those who have signed up to host a table
- b. Programs:
  - i. Reflections and Art Fair (Danielle Kolesnikov): the Reflections district ceremony is tonight, Tuesday January 15 from 6:30-8pm; the Art Fair will be on Tuesday February 12 at 6pm in the MPR, where all Reflections submissions will be displayed and we will have a school-specific Reflections reception; there will be a gallery walk, as well as a hands-on art project that Dara Schaffer (Art Docent) will set up for the students; we will ask Mr. KP to incorporate an announcement during News Crew on Fridays to help spread the word
- c. Fundraising/Membership:
  - i. Fun Run (Amy Finholm): will be held during late recess on Thursday March 21 from 2:10-3:10pm with kickoff on Thursday March 7; it won't just be a run around the field but will also incorporate an obstacle course; we will be using Orange Ruler in a very limited capacity; the team tirelessly tried to find a way around using Orange Ruler with no luck but will fortunately be able to use Orange Ruler's least-involved services to run a smooth fundraiser; fortunately, too, we've raised more money for our school in the past using Orange Ruler software than during any other walk-a-thon fundraisers; there will not be a kickoff assembly this year but instead we will rely on in-class kickoff and explanation videos that will be generously created by Aaron Horton; asking for gift-card donations for prizes (such as drawings for students who register, students who achieve a certain dollar amount, random by grade-level every-other-day, and so on); the signup genius with many different gift-card giving options has been sent out; all participants will receive small prizes so no one is left out; forms are due on Tuesday March 19; all 600 students at the school will go through the run and the course during the one hour, so many volunteers will be needed for this to run smoothly; volunteers can expect to be there on the 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30-3:30pm
- d. Staff Luncheons (Amy Raber): the luncheons cost roughly \$300/month to put on, and we currently have about \$200 from the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for this month, so we will use some of the earnings from Bingo night to help out; there are two opportunities to contribute money, one is cash collection through teacher envelopes, and the other is PayPal via the communication link; most come to us in cash; sometimes cash will trickle in after particular events, so it ends up being more fluid than expected; next luncheon is this Friday January 18 with loaded baked potatoes; there was feedback to consider using Venmo as well

6. Treasurer's Financial Report (Paula Hobbs):
  - a. was a relatively slow month; cash is still coming in, including Microsoft matching contributions
  - b. note one correction made to the November financials (Paula was absent): \$980 from Bingo Night was now updated on the December financials, so there's \$1600 total, which is \$600 more than our original \$1000 budget, so a fundraising success!
  - c. Gift-A-Book is underway; stickers have been purchased for students to personalize
7. Some Final Thoughts:
  - a. 2019-2020 School Auction (Nina Scoffone): next year is an auction year, so keep in mind that we will need chairs, and please help get the word out; need chairs by the end of this school year because the preparations begin as soon as next school year begins in the fall
8. PTSA meeting was adjourned at 11:18am.