

# Findley PTO minutes

## September 2011

### 1. Introductions of the PTO board and parents attending:

Ellen Bradley: Co-President

Angie Kelly: Co-President

Corinne Frechette: Vice President

Laura Rich: Treasurer

Teri Doherty: Secretary (Absent because of illness)

*Contact us at [ww.findleypto.com](http://www.findleypto.com)*

### 2. Budget update (Mrs. Skidmore)

Mrs Skidmore mentions \$5.2 Million to go in budget cuts.

She also says that we had last Spring projected a student body of 781, and we now have 825 students at Findley. There is an overall decrease of 600 children throughout the District, but this does not reflect at Findley.

In response to parents' questions, Mrs Skidmore says that the "accelerated" classes will be maintained. She also explains that we have 5 specialists because of the size of our school (800+). Parents ask if we will be getting administrative help (VP), and Mrs. Skidmore explains that the criteria to get a vice principal have changed to 800+ students *and* Title I (40% free or reduced lunches for example, Findley is at 4% so far from meeting the criteria). She says that the discussion is still open with the District to get a VP.

### 3. Discussion about the November Levy (Mrs. Skidmore)

All the levy money is going directly to the public schools and to the classroom, so that class sizes can go back down, etc... Findley is in charge of:

- Calling days: Sept 20th and Oct 4<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday nights)
- Canvassing days: Oct 15<sup>th</sup> and Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday mornings)

**If parents are interested in helping out to pass the levy and inform their neighbors, please contact the Findley PTO.**

### 4. FINDLEY 101 (Ellen Bradley)

- **Drop off and pick up times:**

All Findley students are either walkers or bus riders. Some people from either group chose to drive the children to drop them off and pick them up. We have to adhere to a

strict process when doing so, especially because of the size of our school and the number of families we serve. (Don't speed in the neighborhoods, turn ONLY right on Thompson, follow the guidelines in the parking lot).

USE the crosswalks, especially to cross Saltzman.

- What is the **Dragon Riders** program?

It is a leadership program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They help out in school, help the Kindies in the cafeteria, help them on the bus to get on. All buses have a Dragon Rider.

- **Classroom coordinators:**

Those parents are facilitators to create volunteer calendars for each classroom and to support each teacher. Each classroom also has a Party parent who takes care of the seasonal parties in each classroom.

- **Background checks** are important and necessary to volunteer in the BSD. It takes only a couple minutes to do the background check. The easiest way to do it to go to [www.findleypto.com](http://www.findleypto.com)
- Explanations about **Escrip**. For more info go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
- Explanations about the **Attendance Line**:

Our system is an automated phone call system. A call is placed at 9:15 to the families who have unexcused absent students.

If a child is late, we have a "tardy" volunteer who sits in the lobby after 8:30 to hand out tardy slips to the students so they can go join their class.

- **Lost and Found:** hooks and cubbies at the bottoms of the stairs by the elevator and by the outside "recess door". Unclaimed items will be donated to the Beaverton School Clothes Closet. (The Clothes Closet is always in need of more items to support underprivileged families from our school district. Want to help? Contact your PTO)
- School Wide **service projects** in the Fall and in the Spring to clean up and beautify the Findley grounds. Everyone is welcome!
- Findley **Carnival**: a great Findley tradition put on by Findley dads in September. Come join us for fun and a great food court this year.
- **Passport Club** is a geography enrichment program for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. Check day is once a month on Tuesdays. We are welcoming Passport Club checkers. It is not a mandatory program but very enriching for the kids (and parents). First check date: Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup>.

- Remember to **send notes** to school if your child's going home plans are different on certain days. Please call the school office before 2pm to let the staff and teachers know if there is an unforeseen change, as the office is extremely busy from 2 to 3pm.

#### **5. Movie Tickets (Mike Molony)**

Fall 2011 matinee program is a great way to see some kids movies (Valley Cinema/ Beaverton Hillsdale) and support our school. Many other schools have participated in the matinee program in the past, and it is now our turn to be in on the fun. A sign up flyer is coming home and can be dropped off at the school office.

#### **6. New Laptop for music program (Ellen Bradley)**

Mrs. Engussen needs a laptop to teach our children about music and musicians. Tracy Christian makes a motion to purchase a new laptop for the music program. Melissa Brinser seconds it. Motion approved.