

Findley Elementary School
PTO Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015
Library, 7:00pm

I. Call to Order

Viju Viswanathan - Co-President

II. Approval of Minutes

October 2015 - approved

III. Board Member Reports

A. Shawn Birdsall Vice President - Presentation of Thank You's

- Thank you Dana Rodman and the Fall Festival Committee for a wonderful time. The parents and children alike loved all the activities at this year's festival. We appreciate you and your team's time and energy putting together a fun event for the Findley families.
- Thank you Eric Kusse and the Boy Scouts for cleaning up our school yard. It looks great! Your time and generosity to make our yard beautiful can be enjoyed by all the staff, parents, and students.

B. Christopher Temple Morris -Treasurer's Report

1. 1 (one) PYP unit was purchased

IV. Current Updates and discussions

A. Findley Parent Social on December 11, 2015 – details to be announced as the date approaches. We anticipate that it will be held on the Findley Elementary campus, most likely in the staff room, with a start time to coincide with parents finishing up morning drop-off. Come meet other parents & the PTO board members, relax & chat! Exact details will be posted prior to the event. See you there!

B. Open PTO Board Positions for school year 2016-17 – positions will be opening up for the 2016-17 term. Co-presidents Ramya & Viju's 2 year term as PTO co-presidents will end June 2016. If you are interested, please email: findleypto.president@gmail.com for further information.

C. Science Fair – a request for anyone interested in joining the science fair committee, please

email: indigosky.97@gmail.com for further information.

D. Emergency Response kits –

1. Findley Elementary is in the process of working with the sheriff's department to determine what items are needed to update our Emergency Response backpacks. Currently, there is a backpack for each class but we would like to have one for every teacher & aide. An initial proposal for funds from the PTO is requested for \$3000. although a formal list is still being assembled, the team responsible would like to get a jump on purchasing some necessary items to begin filling backpacks: 1st aid kits, batteries, solar radios, blankets, a walking rope for the younger set, ice/heat packs, hard candies, walkie-talkies, laptop, inspirational books to keep kids distracted & positive during their time at the emergency meeting location. And of course, the backpacks themselves!
2. Initial request for \$3,000 is available in PTO surplus funds
3. voted unanimously to approve \$3,000 request for funds for emergency response backpacks

V. Findley Staff Reports

A. Kathleen Skidmore (in attendance) – this month's Principal Report given by vice principal, Amy Chamberlain

1. the front safety door is still a work in progress. We will update all parents once it is up & officially running. We are still working out how & where badge points of entry will be but will providing updates once all the kinks have been worked out. Once completed, anyone wishing to enter Findley will have to funnel through the front office before gaining admittance to the school grounds.
2. Sunset High school has approached us about pairing up for the upcoming KGW toy drive. They hope to collect 100 new, unwrapped toys. More information on the toy drive will be coming home as well as noted on the Findley website.
3. We will also continue with the Giving Tree program. Details to follow as the holidays approach.
4. School Messenger is functional & able to give parents up-to-the-minute updates via text message. On your mobile device, text 68453 in the recipient field & in the message field, type in "yes" to receive school related messages (weather closures, bus delays, etc) right to your phone.
5. November 30th will be a day off from school as it is our day of grading. Report cards for this semester will come home with your students on December 18th.
6. Our Findley Elementary food drive continues through the end of this week & concludes on Friday, November 20th. Please send in canned goods to contribute.
7. Emergency kits currently in our classrooms are being evaluated to determine what items need to be included for any emergency that arises.

8. In our continued partnership with the Intel Corporation, the following programs are currently underway for our students:
 - 3rd grade: lego
 - 2nd grade: lemonade stand
 - 1st grade: Intel Day – more information to come
9. lego kits purchased last year will be able to supplement the 3rd, 4th & 5th lego program in spring

B. Emily Gotfried - Teacher Report

Kindergarten

We are finishing up our PYP Unit, How We Express Ourselves. It is an inquiry into symbols and their meanings. Students are observing all of the symbols we use daily. They have made the connection that the numbers and letters we use in math and writing are also symbols!

In math we have introduced shapes; focusing on the features of 2D and 3d shapes.

We continue to work on choosing 'just right' books to help us become better readers and increase our independent reading stamina.

1st Grade

First grade is all about expressing ourselves with color, art and sound and learning about communicating our feelings through art and sound. We are working hard on understanding that addition and subtraction are related as well as learning our math facts to 10 in a snap. In writing we are working on nonfiction personal narratives.

2nd Grade

Second graders are making amazing strides in reading and writing workshop! We have been making sure to find "just right" books that are at our level and are interesting to us. We are concentrating on reading fluently, with natural expression so that it "sounds like talking". We are about to wrap up an exciting unit on personal narrative writing and have focused on including details to describe actions, thoughts and feelings.

In math we are building foundations with lessons on place value. We are developing, for example, the understanding that the three digits of a three digit number represent amounts of hundreds, tens and ones. We are building fluency with our addition and subtraction math facts, as well as developing strategies to add and subtract 2 digit numbers.

We have just launched our second PYP unit, ***Who We are in Place and Time.***

This unit is centered on the central idea that individuals influence local and global communities. This inquiry has us investigating the traits (attributes) of influential people, the ways in which individuals can influence others, and how individuals from the past influence the present. In this unit the children will read biographies of influential people, begin to learn the process of note-taking and writing informational text. Children will gather information and will be taught how to evaluate that information and use it to begin to understand how people and events of the past

influence the present.

3rd Grade

Third Grade is wrapping up their "Where We Are in Place and Time" PYP unit this week. We are currently introducing how to organize expository writing using Main Idea and supporting details strategies which we are teaching in reading. We are using Time 4 Kids (thank you PTO!) and National Geographic Kids magazines as mentor texts. We are in the middle of our 2nd math unit, teaching about time and using the metric system to teach rounding and place value.

4th Grade

It has been a busy month. 4th grade is exploring How We Express Ourselves through a storytelling lens. We are analyzing various art forms, making connections to different cultures and gaining perspective regarding how one's culture is reflected through art (expression). We will cap it off with a Field Trip to Ariel Washington next week to participate in the Chief Lelookska Living History Program.

5th Grade

BizTown Wrap-Up:

Thank you for all of our fabulous volunteers who took the time to not only assist in the businesses, but for going to the training beforehand. The kids had an absolute blast. This will be a field trip that they'll always remember!

MATH: Completing multiplication word problems with multi-digit numbers (decimals and whole #'s) using partial products and area models. ... Taking the mid-module assessment for module 2. ... Shifting over to different division strategies with a double-digit divisor.

PYP: Writing editorial pieces using mentor texts and doing various reading and writing activities as part of our "Who We Are" unit which centers around the Central Idea of "Rights are impacted by the decisions people make".

VI. Questions

A. gift scrip program changes for the 2015 year: we are no longer able to offer the gift scrip program for our Findley teachers and staff, due to BSD guidelines. This change is in accordance with the Beaverton School District regulations. Please continue to show support & appreciation for our amazing Findley teachers & staff through cards & other simple heartfelt gestures. Donations of class supplies to address a specific class need (ie: classroom books) is always acceptable.

Some BSD guidelines to keep in mind this holiday season:

- an individual (like a classroom volunteer) can no longer collect monies on behalf of parents to purchase a group gift or giftcard for a teacher; unless that gift is \$50 or under.
- Individuals are permitted to give Findley teachers & staff gifts totaling no more than \$50 per calendar year (January to December)

VI. Community report

A. John & Barbara Wickham BNC Community Relations - Bethany Neighborhood Coalition is a new neighborhood non-profit that is addressing the concerns of local residents, businesses and even BSD to help with appropriate action in an effort to improve the quality of life for the community. Tonight, they discuss the impact of Saltzman road & the work they are doing to help get an infrastructure in place before more housing developments are introduced in the Bethany area.

- BNC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advocating for the Bethany area & the neighborhoods incorporated within its limits.
- Please consider donating to the BNC or talking to your HOA about joining forces with the BNC. For more information on their work, please refer to their website: www.bncoregon.org