

**Findley Elementary School
PTO Meeting Agenda
October 20, 2015
Art Lit room, 2:00pm**

I. Call to Order

Ramya Govindarajan - Co-President

II. Approval of Minutes

September 2015 – minutes approved

III. Board Member Reports

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

- Thank you Leslie and Dirk Hmura and the rest of the Dragon Dash Planning Team for another amazingly successful Dragon Dash! We would also like to thank all the Findley parents that came out for the event to volunteer or cheer on the students. The generous Findley parents have exceeded this year's goal to help enhance the learning of our students through PTO sponsor programs such as material for classrooms, Passport Club, Findley Flyers, Art Literacy, Coder in Residence, and Author Visit just from beginning of the school year.
- Thank you Cindy LeBlanc for a great Author Visit. Your hard work did not go unnoticed; the students loved Nick Bruel and Bad Kitty!
- Thank you to all the parent volunteers that came out early to make Walk/Bike/Bus to school a success. We had 743 students out of 828 participate. That's almost 90%!
- Thank you to the Picture Day parent volunteers Linh Duong, Tamica Burns, Pauline Hsu, and Lisa Bloedel.
- Thank you to the Vision Screening Day parent volunteers Adriane Douglas, Ryoko Dowers, Mo Mazandarani, Katie Mori, Mary Jo James, Visala, and Todd Grogan.

B. Christopher Temple Morris – Treasurer's Report

- the majority of funds from the 2015 Dragon Dash have been deposited into our account; still awaiting matching contributions to be finalized
- emergency kits – prices to undertake this project will be released in the next few weeks. Kathleen Skidmore will be elaborating more on emergency kits during her school update.

IV. Current Updates and Discussions

A. Funds request from school – Voting by parents needed to approve expense

Instructional reading kits: Findley is in need of

- 15 more instructional reading kits, allowing for each teacher to have their own kit. each kit is priced at \$299 each
- Total funds requested from PTO - \$4500
- funds for instructional reading kits was put to a vote & the funds were unanimously approved funds for instructional reading kits will be funded through the PTO cash surplus from the previous year

B. Funds request from school - Emergency response kits. Kathleen Skidmore will

elaborate further on the emergency kits in her report later in the meeting. Stay tuned!

C. Dragon Dash update – DD coordinator: Leslie Hmura

- Dragon Dash met it's goal of raising \$114,068 (a goal of \$108,000 was our goal) with 94% participation overall.
- All students will be enjoying doughnuts on Wednesday, October 21st
- 26 names will be going on the track
- 26 students will be going on the limo & yogurt excursion that is scheduled for mid November
- t-shirts & water bottles have been ordered
- prize assembly for the entire Findley student body will be on Friday, October 30

D. Findley Fall Festival – Dana Rodman

the Findley Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 30, from 5-8pm

- \$1 per person at the door
- this year, the festival will offer Mad Science – the kids will make troll boogers! There will also be crafts, a DJ, dancing & a book nook for reading spooky stories!
- We are hoping to secure 15+ volunteers through the Westview HS key club
- food offerings will be pizza (cheese or pepperoni) from Papa John's. A gluten free pizza option is also being looked into for our gluten free guests. \$5 gets you a slice of your choice of pizza plus a bag of apples & water (no soda is being sold this year).
- Doughnuts & popcorn will also be offered for purchase & proceeds will benefit the 5th grade trips transportation fund.

V. Findley Staff Reports

A. Kathleen Skidmore - Principal Report

- this fall, the district will begin the process to redraw the district boundaries beginning with the high school attendance areas. The process is expected to begin mid-october 2015 with completion by march 2016. the elementary & middle school will follow a similar process with a target completion date of december 2016.
- security door construction is slated to be completed in March. Safety meeting is set for tomorrow, October 21 & more details will emerge from this meeting but more information will be forthcoming
- an email blast is going to be sent out to remind parents about the necessity of badges when at Findley. Every adult needs to be identified & accounted for at any given time
- Biz Town is coming November 1! the district is unable to provide buses to get the 5th graders to Biz Town at an early enough time for the students to get the full experience of Biz Town. A private driving company has been secured to transport all 5th graders to Biz Town at the Junior Achievement campus on November 5th & 6th.
- Coder in Residence – more volunteers are needed!
- Author visit with Nick Bruel was great
- Thank you to Christopher Temple Morris for his help in handing out tardy slips & promptly closing the doors at 8:30am.
- Still no date assigned for outdoor school for 2016. request was put in for last 7 weeks of school but we have yet to receive any confirmation despite many calls. Outdoor school is also being picked up by the middle schools & dropped by the elementary schools, which could account for the delay in assignment. Findley will assess the

possibility of future outdoor school events should outdoor school be permanently picked up at the middle schools.

- Emergency kits – those currently in school possession need upgrading & we would also like for every aide to have an emergency backpack as well. The current emergency backpacks need to be opened, re-evaluated & tailored to the class it will be serving (ie: the kindergarten emergency bag should probably have a “walking rope” with rings for the smaller kids to hold on to in the event teachers would need to escort them to the evacuation site). Also determining how best to store & transport items that will be needed for an emergency at this time. An official request will be forthcoming with more information & price estimates.
- We will be conducting a safety/emergency drill next week, where all students will be escorted to our predisignated evacuation site – the TV fire station on evergreen.

B. Emily Gotfried - Teacher Report

Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, we have been talking about what inquirers do... This is setting the stage for all of our upcoming units of PYP inquiry. An inquirer is somebody who is curious about the world around them. They observe and notice, ask questions based on their observations, and then they look for answers all around them. We explored our five senses and talked about how we use them to make observations around us. We practiced using our five senses through learning about apples and pumpkins and other signs of fall. We look forward to using these skills throughout the year as we move through our PYP units!

1st Grade

First grade is finishing up our first PYP unit of How We Organize Ourselves. We are moving on to How We Express Ourselves beginning in a week or so. We are excited about our field trip on October 30th to see Junie B. Jones, the musical. It will also be crazy hair day, so we will look good downtown! We have begun to load bookshelf onto our grade level iPads - we are excited to use those and all of first grade will be having coding classes beginning very soon. That's the news! Thank you for all you do to support us!

2nd Grade

Second grade is in full swing this second month of school! In math we are working our way through a measurement unit. Students are thrilled to measure all sorts of items in the classroom and build experience with common mistakes such as starting at 1 instead of 0, leaving gaps and overlaps, as well as comparing the lengths of two objects.

In our PYP unit Who We Are, students are excited to explore ideas of personal choice and well-being. This inquiry unit has us investigating healthy eating, and searching for hidden ingredients like sugar in our everyday foods, understanding our emotions, as well as our physical and mental selves to keep us healthy. Students are keen to dig deeper into their unique role in taking care of themselves and learn ways in which we can impact our community and build a healthy classroom and school.

In writing workshop, narrative stories are full of small meaningful moments. We are also building experience using checklists and revising our writing.

3rd Grade

Third grade is in the Middle of the PYP unit Where We Are In Place and Time. Our concept is community development can have positive and negative effects. We re all in the process of

working on and writing narrative paragraphs. The routines are in place and the reading workshop model is in full swing. All of the third grade teachers commented on how well organized the Dragon Dash was this year! GREAT JOB!! We have really enjoyed the coding classes so far and the teachers have learned just as much as the students! We would like to thank the PTO for sponsoring this project.

4th Grade

Fourth grade will be starting their second PYP Unit entitled How We Express Ourselves. We will be examining how different cultures express their beliefs and values through the arts. This month all fourth grade classes are also enjoying the fun learning opportunity provided by the PTO - Coding! What fun. Thank you PTO!

5th Grade

Math:

Embarking into module 2 in Engage NY. This focuses on mental strategies as well as strategies for whole number and decimal multiplication + division problems.

PYP

Continuing on our Who We Are unit of study. This includes fair vs. unfair stories as well as reading and watching articles, texts, and videos that explore this topic.

BizTown

We are forming our businesses, learning how to collaborate, and preparing for our November 5th and/or 6th field trip.

VI. Community report

A. Marianne Coalson, Branch Manager, Cedar Mill Community

Library @Bethany – Report on the upcoming WCCLS Library Levy, Measure 34-235.

- this is expected to be a smaller voter turnout (30,000 vs 200,000) as there is no candidate election in conjunction with the 2015 ballot
- this levy replaces the previous funding that expires June 26, 2016. this funding accounts for approximately 1/3 or 1.2 million of the library budget.
- The increase will be raised from \$.17/\$1000 to \$.22/\$1000, it is small but will fund so much
- the new funding will allow the library to add Aloha Community library to the roster.
- Aloha has been mainly volunteer serviced since it's start 4-5 years ago. Aloha is unincorporated therefore does not fall under the jurisdiction of Washington County. Funding would allow for transport services, full time staff, more materials & a more flexible schedule for Aloha & nearby residents
- operational support would also be upped for Cornelius, Hillsboro & Beaverton branches
- Bethany branch is also unincorporated & does not fall under the Washington County jurisdiction but funding will help cover the rent, staff salaries & materials
- funding will continue to support early literacy programs geared towards the 0-5 set as well as purchase more e-Books & materials
- Bethany branch has no ballot box at this time so completed ballots can be dropped of at either the election office on Murray or the main branch library drop box which is available 24/7 to receive those ballots
- Bethany branch will continue to mentor Aloha, having been through this process

themselves

VI. Questions

- there will be some PTO board member openings for the 2016-2017 year, so if you know of anyone who would like to be involved, please send an email to the PTO co-presidents.