

Findley Elementary School
PTO Meeting Agenda
March 15th, 2016
7:00pm

I. Call to Order

Ramya Govindarajan - Co-President
Viju Viswanathan - Co-President

II. Approval of Minutes

February 2016 - approved

III. Board Member Reports

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

1. Motion to present thank yous on a board in the Findley lobby as recipients are not usually present.

B. Christopher Temple Morris – Treasurer's Report

1. No budget changes or updates from February meeting

IV. Current Updates and discussions

A. Paul Swardstrom – Music Teacher – An update about the music curriculum and future goals was presented to give parents a bird's eye view of the music program and the instruments purchased through a grant given by the PTO at the end of last year. Mr Swardstrom also showed a video compilation of various classes performing with the xylophones. Here are some of the highlights:

1. 23 new xylophones were purchased with the help of Findley's PTO
2. The curriculum meets BSD requirements while introducing students to tempo, dynamics, melody, articulation, music creation, improvisation and music composition.
3. Xylophones are used by students in grades K through 5 with an accompanying curriculum that educates and challenges each grade level. There are no "wrong" notes - students are free to musically experiment.
4. Mr Swardstrom wants to propose an after school xylophone program for the future.
5. Mr Swardstrom also requests additional funds from PTO to repair broken instruments or replace them entirely as

well as possibly purchasing more metallophones, alto xylophones and a bass xylophone for future music collaborations.

6. Mr Swardstrom also requests new storage/carts for the current inventory of xylophones as existing storage/cart system is no longer proving functional.

B. Kathleen Skidmore, Principal, presented the update on the AV System in the Gym/ Cafeteria:

1. Sound system is live and loud (yay!). It is also easier to use.
2. Bidding is in place to replace current screen and projector in the cafeteria. We have 2 options at this time: a manual screen/projector with cage, cabling and install for \$7969. The 2nd option is an electric screen which will run about \$300 more than the manual version.
3. Approximately \$900-3000 additional dollars are needed to complete the screen/projector system update.

C. Open Positions and upcoming meeting updates:

1. Budget meeting is next month, on Friday, April 1st
2. 1 or 2 volunteers are needed to head up Passport Club next year
3. Restaurant Night coordinator for next year is needed
4. Art Literacy program needs a new laptop, preferably a MAC as the current one is on it's last leg.

V. Findley Staff Reports

A. Kathleen Skidmore - Principal Report

1. Future Ready program is ready to launch and will do so in several phases throughout the next year. Findley will receive 25% of the necessary hardware before June of this year. This hardware will include 70 ChromeBooks, and 40 iPads. The 2nd phase which will encompass the balance of the hardware will be completed during the next school year. Teachers will be ramping up and learning to use as a teaching tool. The teachers will also be receiving new leased laptops and the old laptops will be distributed throughout Findley.
2. 50 more ChromeBooks are being purchased by Findley in order to have the entire 5th grade complete the state testing on these ChromeBooks.

3. At this time, the Findley wi-fi is unstable and we are working to correct this issue in time for report cards and state testing.
4. New front entry system went live today. Staff and teachers were issued badges to open doors via an electronic swipe decoder at each point of entry. All 3 front doors will close automatically at 8:30am, leaving the door closest to the front office open for parents and visitors to check in, where secretaries will them in. From now on, the doors to the yard will be locked. Double doors to library as well as doors opposite will now have a phone lockdown system allowing the doors to be locked via a mobile phone. The portables have their own security system and lockdown system via mobile phone but are not online with the main building at this time.
5. Bollywood Assembly was fantastic and enjoyed by all the students
6. Science Fair 2016 was a success
7. Findley is proud to announce that we have an OBOB team going to the state regionals on April 9th

B. Emily Gotfried - Teacher Report

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has continued to be busy with our inquiry of homes the last few weeks. We have observed similarities and differences of homes around the world, cooperated with friends to draw plans and build 3-D homes out of a variety of materials. We celebrated the 100th day of school with lots of counting to 100 and fun activities. We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday bringing our books, pillows and stuffed animals to school for lots of reading! We continue to build our math addition and subtraction fluency and problem solving. We will begin focusing on number sense and teen numbers. We are using word families and rhyming to grow our reading and writing.

1st Grade

*First Grade is beginning a new PYP unit under the theme of Who We Are.

In this unit first graders will explore challenges and choices. First graders will have many opportunities to explore challenges through reading, dramatic play, watching video clips and more.

*In math we are finishing Module 3, a unit of data collecting and measuring and we will move into module 4 exploring place value, adding and subtracting within 120 and time to the hour and half hour.

*Writing - We will be working on opinion writing.

*First graders continue to become stronger with their friendship and communication skills.

2nd Grade:

It's hard to believe that Spring Break is almost upon us, but here we are! In math, second graders have been working hard to refine their skills in two and three digit addition and subtraction. We are practicing regrouping with larger and larger numbers, moving all the way up to 1,000! Our unit in nonfiction writing is soon coming to a close. Students have been creating books about a topic they're familiar with and have been working diligently on crafting effective introductions and conclusions. Our next unit of study will be in opinion writing! In our current PYP Unit – How the World Works – we are learning all about water. We have looked at the availability of clean water around the world, the ways in which water helps to shape the surface of our planet, as well as the ways in which we manage the water that we have. Thank you to the PTO for all that you do. We hope everyone has a wonderful, relaxing Spring Break.

3rd Grade:

Third grade has been working on How the World Works for PYP and have been discussing gravity and cause and effect with the creation of Rube Goldbergs at home and in the classroom. We have conducted several experiments with force and motion including designing, creating and racing wind cars, and fictions with dragon racers. In Math we are in the middle of our unit on fractions. In reading we have being doing work with non-fiction article and comparing sources. Writing has been integrated with reading as we are writing paragraphs based on the main idea and learning to compare and cite resources.

4th Grade:

4th grade is moving along (literally) as we discuss the Challenges and Opportunities of migration, The Oregon Trail and (previously) Lewis and Clark. In math Fractions is also coming to a close and fourth graders are learning how to write Informative pieces and read historical text.

5th Grade:

Math (Engage NY-Module 4): The lessons focus on comparing the size of the product to the size of the factors. ... We'll also be working on a dividing a whole number by a unit fraction.

PYP: Our current PYP unit is under the theme of "Sharing the Planet". ... It focuses on food consumption and production as well as human responsibility in food production. ... As we progress deeper into the unit, we'll be writing argument-based reports. ... From a reading perspective, we'll be looking into articles that have debatable issues.

Science: Students will be learning about ecosystems. ... This includes how organisms interact within ecosystems, and how food chains work.

VI. Questions

