

PTO MEETING APRIL 19TH – MINUTES

1. Call to order: 7:15pm in the Findley Library

Viju Viswanathan Co-President calls meeting to order.

II. Approval of minutes

March 2016 Minutes approved and seconded

III. Board member reports

A. Shawn Birdsall – as there were no activities since the last report there are no new thank yous
Part of the PTO board will be used for future thank you's, especially for people not at the PTO meeting.

B. Treasurer report

Chris, our treasurer presented the current budget. Numbers current as of this afternoon.

IV. CURRENT UPDATES & discussion

A. Carnival dads –AV system update

An AV video system work order has been put in. They will need additional funds for a screen. Need either a Manual screen or motorized screen. A Motorized screen will need \$2000 more. They Would like PTO to fund the needed additional money. They would like prefer to buy the motorized screen.

Chris says we do have a surplus to do it. We need to vote at this PTO meeting to decide.

We will currently end the school year with a \$12,000 surplus so we are fine. Initially we thought we would have a 20,000\$ surplus though.

Carnival Dads say the motorized screen is better. They last about the same time as a manual screen but is easier to use. New screen will also be larger.

Viju says as long as we do not get a large request for next year, paying extra for the screen will not impact us.

There were some Questions on line items that haven't been spent. First aid kits and one book one school shows funds haven't been spent, but will be by end of year.

Chris says everything has been accounted for.

A vote was taken on the funding for the motorized monitor and passed.

Future goals:

Carnival date is June 3rd is the date. Theme will be Rio olympics for this carnival. They are still putting it together. Will be about same scope as last year with fundraising expected for about \$10,000. Talked about

where the money raised is to go, but there hasn't been any consensus. One idea is for the track.

Will be charging for tickets, auctions, raffles, food trucks. Mostly same charges as last year.

Dads had a question regarding the bond for the track. Amy Chamberlain says this is dependant on the school board and THPRD. There are lots of pieces to it and quite a bit of money. Amy says the school is looking at improving the library and making it more tech friendly. This could be one option to look at for target funds.

Carney dads say dinner with a teacher was a hit with kids last year as a prize. A form was sent to teachers this year to survey similar prize ideas.

Amber representing 5th grade moms says they are looking at getting a curtain for the stage. No idea now on cost yet. May know by next meeting and may also ask PTO For help. 5th grade is not sure if they will have enough money to fund this. They are willing to put any extra money towards that.

A Parent asked if the school can rent out the stage for extra money. Amy Chamberlain says we are not allowed to do that for the purpose of raising funds. There is a fee and you can do it, but are more to cover admin costs/maintenance costs.

There were some questions on the current budget compared with the proposed budget. Chris explained that some items are grouped differently now so they numbers may not match when comparing them. The summary he gave out explains the proposed budget in broad terms rather than line by line.

May 6th 9:30am am is when the next official budget meeting will be. parents can attend and ask further questions. They can also send questions in to the PTO.

A parent asked if we have considered requesting more money to bump the budget up. He advised a couple years ago the PTO talked about slowly increasing the suggested contributing amount to \$160. This was to be done slowly over a couple of years. From a survey that was taken, \$160 seemed to be the sweet spot.

Viju says compared to other schools our requested contribution amount is already quite high so we looked at what we needed after talking to Mrs. Skidmore and came up with a corresponding budget needed. Based on that at \$131 per student, we still have a surplus, so we didn't feel like we could ask for more. The track is a major issue that is not accounted for. If we were to include it, it would be a big amount. Unless there is a huge project we can't ask parents for a raise in funds.

Question on dragon dash expenses was raised. Chris explained it was mostly from prizes, assemblies, software etc.

Question on tech budget. Amy Chamberlain says we want to get to a higher ratio than what we currently. Teachers are finding chrome books are working well with students. Goal is 1-1 for 4th and 5th graders. 2 to 1 for lower grades and 1-1 for 3rd grade. This is part of the Future ready program from BSD which is roll out over the next 2 years.

Question on why academic expenses down. It was explained that the budget has been divided into different categories and also PYP budget has been cut down as we don't need as much. Lego engineering budget also eliminated as it was a one time expense. Coder in residence is now just residence and we are still looking at programs to fill that.

Biz town also is not on next year's budget. This year is the Last year for biz town because the curriculum is not aligned with standards is taking away from class time they need to teach the kids. This was the recommendation from 5th grade teachers as discussed with Mrs. Skidmore.

Shuchi Chawla asked about having a mindfulness program in at Findley. Could be done as a in residence

program. Could be a 16 week program twice a week for 20 minutes and teachers could start to implement it into their day. Also an 8 week program 2-3 times a week or once a week in short times is possible. It can be adjusted to fit into the school schedule and grade levels. Mental fitness needs to be practiced. She knows of Portland public high schools implementing programs like this as well as other schools around the nation. contact for Shuchi Chawla is meetyourmind@outlook.com, www.meetyourmind.org

Viju asked her to send some email to PTO And we will take a look.

V FINDLEY STAFF REPORTS

A. KATHLEEN Skidmore

Amy chamberlain gave the report on behalf of Mrs Skidmore.

They are still working on updates to the AV equipment. So far the new system has been well received. It's the first time where even students far in the back can here. Findley has had success with various events such as the spelling bee, and Geobee. The Findley OBOB team sent a third grade team to the regional competition and they did very well coming in fourth. There is SBAC testing going on in the school right now. You may have noticed some changes in the library with dividers put up to try to keep distractions and noise levels down while students test in there.

B. Emily Gotfried - Teacher Report

Updates April 2016

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has just started their new Sharing the Planet unit of inquiry: Living things must have their needs met in order to survive. We have planted seeds and are excited to observe and record their growth. Our literacy will focus on reading nonfiction texts for information and writing "how to's" and informative writing. We have been looking at vowel patterns that create the long vowel sounds and have just started learning about the "h-brothers" digraph pairs (th, ch, sh, wh). We continue to grow our sight word vocabulary and love reading everyday! In math, we have been constructing and deconstructing teen numbers.

1st Grade

First grade is wrapping up our current PYP unit Who We Are - Challenges and Choice. Students have learned a great deal about challenges in their personal live as well as academic challenges.

Classes have been building a community for class stuffed animals. First graders took on the challenge of organizing into building teams, deciding what materials to use and building a community that includes neighborhoods, stores, fire stations, homes, swimming pools and parks. During science inquiry students have conducted experiments taking on the challenge of making a spinning top and then redesigning it to spin better, some classes have made paper airplanes and then redesigned to make the airplanes fly further.

In math first graders are developing an understanding of place value within 120 and learning to add and subtract from 2 digit numbers using multiple strategies.

Our focus in writing is opinion writing. First graders have brought in collections of items and have chosen the "first prize" item based on reasons. We will continue to work on opinion writing moving into book reviews, favorite food, sports, vacations etc. Students will learn the difference between reasons and facts.

2nd Grade

Spring has sprung!

Second graders are busy and energetic as usual this spring. A special event, Lemonade Activity STEM project from INTEL brought science, math, engineering, and technology into our learning. It was more meaningful because it connected our new PYP theme How We Organize into action of producer and consumer at the same time.

Highlights of learning

***Literacy:** Most readers are hooked on chapter books using reading skills and strategies. Individualized Reading Leveled Assessment(IRLA) is ongoing practice daily. As writers, we launched with opinion writing. Kids are writing opinion statement with reasons and examples. Both reading and writing will be incorporated with PYP theme.

Math: Module 7 is focused on Problem Solving with Length, Money, and Data. Mathematicians were working on categorical data in graphs, counting and changing money in bills and coins, and measuring and estimating lengths in customary and metric units.

PYP: How We Organize Ourselves theme brings a central idea of “Financial choices impact the role we play as producers and consumers.” At the end of the unit, everyone will produce a good or service to sell in the classroom on Market Day.

**** Zoo Field Trip:** In early May, second graders are having one and only field trip of the year to Oregon Zoo. Thank you for supporting all our learning activities. We are grateful for you Findley PTO!!!

3rd Grade

We just finished up our unit on fractions and will be starting our unit of geometry and measurement. We are in the middle of state testing for reading.

Third grade has been busy finishing up their "How the World Works" unit. This Thursday parents are invited to attend the innovation fair in which the students will show off their invention which they created that solves a problem in their life using force and motion. The student created a non-working pro-type with a diagram explaining how the invention works. Then wrote an persuasive piece trying to sell their invention...like what is seen on the TV show Shark Tank.

Fourth grade is starting a unit on Geometry in math. We are also well into our PYP Unit: **Where We Are In Place and Time**. Through the lens of Migration, we are making inquiries into the Opportunities and Challenges of Migration, the reasons why people migrate, the experience of migration, and the Impact of migration. Fourth graders are also learning about Informational text and writing books about the Oregon Trail and a migration they have researched.

5th

The following are some news, notes, and tidbits from fifth grade:

- We're wrapping up our PYP unit (Sharing the Planet) and starting a new one (Where We Are In Place & Time).
- We're currently in module 5 of Engage NY (focuses on various strategies to find area and volume).
- Outdoor School paperwork went home and the kids are getting very excited!

VI. QUESTIONS

No further questions were raised.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm