

**Findley Elementary School  
PTO Meeting Agenda**

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

7:00pm

**I. Call to Order**

Ramya Govindarajan - Co-President

**II. Approval of Minutes**

April 2016 – approved with change: add contact & website information for last month's guest speaker, Shuchi Chawla who gave some information on mindfulness as a possible residency program for the 2016-17 school year.

**III. Board Member Reports**

A. Christopher Temple Morris – Treasurer's Report for 2016-17 school year was submitted for review and was approved.

B. Some notable budget changes include:

1. Increase to Technology budget (this is to include all tech, ie: projectors, upgrades, equipment replacement, not only handhelds) from \$20,000 to \$30,000
2. Art Literacy budget was raised to \$950 so that a new laptop can be purchased
3. Popcorn expenses will be tracked to determine if popcorn will need it's own category for the 2017-18 year.
4. At this time, the PTO is not committed to any project or projects that will utilize the \$20,000 surplus

C. Clarification on a check received from the Intel Corporation has deemed that a portion of the check received by the Findley PTO is slated for the Boy Scouts Troop 718. Research by both Viju Viswanathan & Chris Temple-Morris led to the determination that each spring, the Intel Corporation matches funds based on Intel employees volunteer hours for the troop. For the future, Boy Scout Troop is looking into having the Intel Corporation cut a check directly to Boy Scouts. If this is not a possibility, PTO will receive the Intel check, then immediately make a check for the same amount out to the Boy Scouts as PTO is the charter host to for the Boy Scout organization at Findley.

D. At the moment, this is where the PTO stands financially:

- \$73,450 in PTO account
- Less \$20,000 in reserve
- \$53,450 spendable cash
- Less \$15,000 outstanding budget items that may be used through June 30, 2016
- Less \$17,530 for pass through monies (\$7,000 carnival, \$7,780 yearbooks & \$2,750 for 5th grade celebration)

E. Music department is over by \$35 in allotted music funds & asked if the \$35 could be carried over to next year. This request was denied but Ms Skidmore has generously decided to cover this \$35 overage.

F. Music invoices - it is possible that three (3) invoices for music instruments purchased by Paul Swardstrom could arrive by end of the school year or over the summer break. Katie in the front office has 3 checks at the ready, should any of these invoice arrive prior to the end of school & can mail out immediately. If remaining invoices arrive over the summer break, payment will have to be delayed until fall. We have been waiting months for these music instrument invoices to arrive.

#### **IV. Current Updates and discussions**

##### **Elections: By Voice – Vice President Hyun(Shawn) Birdsall**

###### **New Board members:**

Sara Thorn for President – vote approved

Viji Pokala for Secretary – vote approved

Cori Anger for Volunteer Coordinator – vote approved

Terra Groom for Member at Large – vote approved

###### **Continuing Board members:**

Hyun Birdsall (Shawn) as Vice President – vote approved

Christopher Temple-Morris as Treasurer – vote approved

Laxmi Karumbunathan as Technology Officer – vote approved

Cindy Leblanc as Member at Large – vote approved

Kaili Burbano as Member at Large – vote approved

**Budget 2016-17: For Voting** - vote approved

## **V. Findley Staff Reports**

### 1. Kathleen Skidmore - Principal Report

- Reports from 5th grade teachers tell us that Outdoor School is going well. Great weather. Tired kids!
- One School, One Book is going to expand to include 15 minutes of reading by the entire family and is slated to start May 25th.
- Findley is pleased to announce that our school library will be open on Wednesdays during the summer. Library hours will be Wednesdays, 8:30-11:30 am & students will be able to check out books!
- Starting in 2017, it will be mandated that each state will grant students a minimum of 150 minutes of physical exercise/activity per week. 3 BSD schools piloted this program last year & for the 2016-17 school year, all 33 schools will be on board with this new requirement. Teachers attended brain boost training this year & will combine that with mindfulness strategies.
- Starting in the fall, all Findley students will have lunch AFTER recess (the current schedule calls for lunch then a recess) which will result in students eating more, quieter classrooms & calmer student demeanors as was reported by the 3 schools that piloted this change for the 2015-16 school year.
- Findley will no longer offer BizTown to the 5th grade class. It was determined that BizTown does not meet the common core standards and requires 6 weeks of preparation time that could be better used to devote to the curriculum. Findley is the last school to participate in the BizTown program. Next year, 5th graders will choose an alternate field trip to replace BizTown.

- Thank you PTO board members for all you do for Findley Elementary!

## 2. Emily Gotfried – class report by grade

### **Kindergarten:**

Kindergarten is wrapping up our PYP unit on sharing the planet: Living things must have their needs met in order to survive. We have visited a farm to see how plants and animals really work together in our own community! We are working on researching different plants, animals, and habitats. We have been practicing informational writing to inform our readers about what we have learned in our research. We are also working on presenting this information to our classmates and becoming "experts" on a certain topic. We have been working on digraphs and blends (th, wh, ch, sh, ph) and are moving towards learning about syllables. In math, we are continuing to work on adding and subtracting fluently. We are also working on place value, and composition and decomposition of teen numbers.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**

\*First Grade is deep into our Sharing the Planet unit. First graders are learning about the 3 R's and what responsibilities and choices they can make to share the earth. Students are learning what a natural resources is and how resources are in every item or product in their lives.

\*In writing we continue to work on opinion writing incorporating reasons why it is important to reduce, reuse and recycle.

\*Math we have begun a new module on geometry and time. First graders will identify and name shapes by common attributes as well as decompose shapes. First graders will be able to tell the time to the hour and half hour.

\*Reading - First graders have been practicing fluency and expression with fairy tale reader's theater.

\*As we begin to wrap up the year, first grade teachers would like to tell the PTO how much we love and appreciate you. We feel so well cared for and appreciated. Thank you so much for all your wonderful support.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**

What a busy spring! Second graders have just wrapped up our very exciting "How We Organize Ourselves" theme in which we studied how societies create money systems to trade, earn and save. This economics unit focused on supply/demand, consumers/ producers and the responsibility of making financial choices.

Students applied for jobs, were hired, worked, and received "dragon dollars" for their efforts.

"Market Day" at the end of April culminated this unit in which students became producers, (or providers of a service) and consumers. Next we will turn our gaze to the theme, "Sharing the

Planet” in which we will learn about ecosystems and how they may be affected by human behavior.

In our reading workshop block, students continue to build stamina to read independently and monitor themselves for comprehension – recognizing when meaning breaks down and there is the need to reread, or find a more appropriate “just right” text.

Writing workshop continues to be a favorite for many students. Recently, students have been immersed in opinion writing. Students are writing letters, reviews and recommendations as they hone their abilities to state an opinion and support it with relevant details.

Measurement and money have been our most recent endeavors in math. Beyond the basics of identifying/counting coins, and accurately measuring length with inches and centimeters, students have been grappling with solving story problems with money and measurement. We are just about to launch into geometry and fractions. Of course, addition and subtraction math fact fluency (within 20) continues to be a goal!

### **3rd Grade:**

Third grade is in the middle of their final PYP unit "Sharing the Planet." We are learning about, "How people can make a difference by taking actions." As a grade level we have partnered up with an orphanage in Ethiopia and are raising money to supply water, chickens, meals, and school supplies to school children. We are in the middle of our last unit of math and spelling for the year. We are doing fun things with novels for reading and are finishing our opinion writing.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Fourth grade is exploring Measurement with Multiplication in math. We are also starting our final PYP Unit this year: *Sharing the Planet* through the lens of energy use. We are making inquiries into the struggles that develop as people use energy resources by examining: how energy works, conflicts that arise from sharing resources, and how people make energy choices. Fourth graders are also writing informational and opinion based text about various forms of energy.

### **5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

In Engage NY, we're studying and drawing attributes of different polygons. ... In PYP, we're currently doing stations for our Where We Are In Place & Time unit of inquiry (this includes reading poems, comparing texts, breaking down statistics, and sorting topics and pictures according to their characteristics and themes). ... Lastly, we're into the last SBAC testing sessions after ODS (which center around the Math Performance Task).

### 3. Sara Thorn - notable mentions

- More food volunteers are needed for Friday, May 20th's International Lunch for the staff. Going forward, there will be only 2

staff luncheons that are catered instead of the current 3 luncheons.

- MVP (my volunteer page) system - Findlley's new volunteer portal is experiencing some growing pains as we navigate the new system. We will be working with BSD to see if the system can be tailored to Findlley's needs but at this time, please be patient. We have discovered that each user is anonymous unless the user changes this setting in their profile. An email has been sent addressing this process. Here are the steps needed to change the settings in your profile:

1. Login to mVP by going to [www.myvolunteerpage.com](http://www.myvolunteerpage.com) and entering your username and password.
2. Click the **My Profile** tab at the top right of the screen.
3. Click **Contact Information**.
4. In the **Privacy Settings** box, click to select the following:
  - I want other volunteers to see my name.
  - I want my last name included.
  - I want my photo included. (Be brave! Upload a photo! This will be displayed to other users as a low-resolution image the size of a postage stamp. It doesn't have to be a glamour shot, and will be helpful for other volunteers to recognize you).

## VI. Questions

No additional questions were raised at this meeting.