

Abernethy Community Meeting Minutes, 11/15/18

Attending: Allyson Wilinski, Lisa Delaney, Becca Spain, Caroline Bleckmann, Caryn Anderson, Heather Hull, Vanessa Morgan, Rose Caudillo, Hanna Nesper Newell, Kirsten Isaacson, Beth Cavanaugh, Karen Liao, Becky Spencer, Craig Stack, Sara Albert, Dawn McNeill, John Hendricks, Rene Hendricks, Jen Burkart, Sahra Perretz-Rosales, Leah Woods, Juliann Squires.

Kirsten Isaacson calls the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Hanna Nesper Newell makes a MOTION to approve minutes from October community meeting. Dawn McNeill seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Dawn McNeill

- If you did not claim your Chinook Book in the membership drive, you can still get it via the Chinook Book app.

Grounds: Vanessa Morgan

- All graffiti sighted on the playground should be reported to the office ASAP, so a clean-up plan can be figured out.
- Weekend work party in the Abernethy garden/playground/grounds scheduled for 11/17.
- The artificial turf on the playground is eight years old. Its expected life span is 8-10 years. Putting in new turf will cost between \$45,000 and \$55,000.
- Do we raise the money to replace it? Or try to raise enough to extend the current life of the turf?
- We could do other things with the space. At Lewis Elementary, they raised \$60,000 for a nature playground. Could we put in a smaller, most cost-effective natural playground area?
- Also environmental concerns. These days, artificial turf include infill for the grass blades with acrylic sand and a foam pad. A cheaper option is to infill with gravel and shredded tires. There are some concerns with this method about heavy metals and other carcinogens.
- Goal is to get firm bids and decide on a path forward by February, with an eye towards action or replacement in summer of 2020.

- Need to incorporate maintenance into future budgets, to vacuum it once a year and do a magnet sweep.
- Question from Hanna Nesper Newell: What's the distribution of use with the turf? Is it used heavily, but only by a core group of kids? Caryn Anderson: It is always used, every recess. Kids fall and fall hard when they play soccer. It saves faces and broken arms.
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Annual Appeal: Jen Burkart:

- We have a shorter window, and a very low return rate this year. Only 27 percent so far. Last year it was 88 or 90 percent.
- Hopefully we can make a big push during conferences. More reminders will be going out.

Lost and Found: Hanna Nesper Newell:

- The Lost and Found has moved to under the stairwell, at the end of the hallway on the way to the portables.
- We need a parent to help maintain this space, keep the clothes hung up and moving. Will be on the lookout for someone who can take on a small role, to try to match the clothes with the kid and take anything unclaimed to the PTA clothes closet. Can get a list of volunteers to help with this task.

Open Forum: The history of PTA and Foundation, Carolyn Duran and Beth Cavanaugh

*NOTE -- please see attached presentation for more information; minutes reflect discussion, not the deck. Presentation includes several options for how to structure the PTA/foundation in the future, including maintaining the combined status quo, giving parents more choice over where their fundraising dollars are used, separating into two linked entities and separating into entirely different entities, with different mission statements. Further video of the entire meeting can be found on the Abernethy Homeroom Facebook Live page.

Carolyn Duran: As we fundraise for teachers/staff, we want to understand what we are raising money for and how it is spent. We are considering clarity, choice and compliance. Feedback is welcome — email abernethyptapresident@gmail.com or bethanycavanaugh@gmail.com.

- PTA/Foundation at Abernethy were originally combined for efficiency, flexibility and to prevent competing/overlapping efforts.
- The first \$10,000 that we raise, Abernethy gets to keep. After that, 1/3rd of all money raised goes to All Hands Raised, and is then redistributed among schools that do not have the same ability to raise funds.
- PTA/community programs, like chili cook-off and OBOB are funded first. Then we go to staff funding.
- Oregon PTA manual says fundraising should not be the priority; it should be to support programs and activities. Are we in compliance? Missy Ryan: What does being out of compliance put us at risk of losing? Craig Stack: Insurance coverage, for one. On the other hand, we have submitted our budget for years to the Oregon PTA. They know our structure and have not flagged anything.
- Carolyn Duran: Splitting into two separate entities would require a startup operating budget for the foundation.
- Jen Burkhardt: If our mission as a PTA is educational support, then how to programs like basketball, or the chili cook-off balances against staff development and lower class sizes, which in turn help students who are living in poverty?
- Craig Stack: Is there another option -- to create a new 501-C that isn't affiliated with the Oregon PTA's rules/regulations?
- Leah Woods: If you google Oregon state or local unit bylaws, it clarifies the purpose of a PTA -- very enlightening. Do we meet that definition? Or are we trying to do something else?
- Beth Cavanaugh: A pro to forming a separate organization is that if you are uncomfortable with fundraising, and every meeting you come to, there is some discussion of it, there is not an option to be involved in this group without engaging in that. This is an inclusion piece.
- Sahra Perretz-Rosales: There is tension in this room. We need to sort out why it feels so highly charged, and why does it matter so much to everyone involved.
- Carolyn Duran: I worry about the compliance.

Carolyn Duran makes a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm. Sara Albert seconds. Motion passes unanimously.