

## Board Meeting Minutes: August 14, 2018

In attendance: Carolyn Duran, Terry Franks, Julia Silverman, Carrie Richardson, Hanna Nesper Newell, Stephanie Hart, Leslie O'Connor, Craig Stack, Sara Albert, Bill Morgan, Gretchen Kilby, Ericka Morgan, Cressida Schuster, Vanessa Morgan, Dawn McNeill, John Grant, Jon Worona.

Carolyn Duran calls the meeting to order, 7:05 pm.

### President/Vice President/Finance Report:

- After a long battle with the district, Abernethy has received a fourth third grade teacher! Hanna and Julia will try to meet with district officials to do a post-mortem later in the fall.
- Kindergarten numbers are higher than expected at 28 per class. Will continue to keep an eye on this as the enrollment numbers settle. May be able to advocate for a fourth teacher.
- Looking ahead: Need volunteer chairs for chili cook-off, Holiday Shoppe, Harvest Fest.
- We will be looking to consolidate some of the PTA's communications tools. Currently we use Dropbox, Google Docs, the Abernethy Board PTA listserv and Slack. Files are all in different places; needs to be a single place where shared information is accessible.
- Finance statements will be available in Dropbox. Craig will review monthly income statements for anomalies, like larger than expected expenses. We want to prevent surprises like last year's \$7,000 bill from a garden vendor.
- Do not pay for PTA expenses yourself. It makes it more difficult to budget in the future, and people should not have to spend money to volunteer. Just submit a check expense.
- We have a new credit card reader from Shopify, and are transitioning to QuickBooks printing for checks.

- Please be timely with check requests, tell us what the expense is for, and how you want to receive the check. Receipts or statements about what the money is being spent on are necessary.

Tour de Ladd: Carrie Richardson and Bill Morgan

- Proposal to move to an online system for pledging, Pledgestar, with each child having their own personal page. Projections are that this would increase fundraising and make collections easier. It costs \$995 per event, and then 30 cents per transaction. That is a bit less than we are paying for Shopify to process transactions.

Craig Stack makes a MOTION to approve using PledgeStar for Tour de Ladd. John Grant seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Auction: Terry Frank

- The auction has a location (Melody Ballroom) and a date (March 1.) More volunteers are needed. Working on a new co-chair model where each co-chair would overlap for a year, so a new person has less of a learning curve.

Spanish: Leslie O'Connor

- Switching to one payment per year, as opposed to month by month. Scholarships are available; last year we gave out five scholarships and they were half price. TAs are needed for the program.

Volunteer Coordinators: Sara Albert and Stephanie Hart

- Planning to do a room parent orientation in September. Working on the creation of an all-school directory in a google spreadsheet.

## New Families: Cressida Schuster

- Have had a number of playdates and family picnics over the summer. Popsicle social is planned for the first week of school.

## Membership: Dawn McNeill

- Trying to get more people to sign up for their Chinook Book renewals via the Abernethy Homeroom Facebook page, easier to do it electronically and will continue to benefit Abernethy until you indicate otherwise on the app.

## School Kitchen Garden/Garden After School Program: Jay Austin (report via email):

- GAP enrollment started in June and is now mostly full, with a few Friday spots remaining and a waitlist for the other four days. The new instructors, Jessica and Melissa, were onsite for a few hours over the summer maintaining and planting the Garden, and are planning for the school year.
- One question the Board might want to consider is how to award GAP scholarships: we allocated some money for this in the budget, but have not yet inquired about people's need or interest. Would help to know how this is done in other PTA programs so we can try to be consistent with those.
- Finally, on the SKG committee, plan is to convene a meeting of the parent volunteers at the end of this month so we all can touch base, discuss some ideas, and divide up some tasks before we start to engage with Heather and the teachers (Adamski, Logan, and Gerlach).

## Grounds Committee — Vanessa Morgan

- Getting ready for Community Cars day. Looking into taking out an apple tree on school grounds. Also trying to stay on top of yellow jacket infestation, and the ongoing dog off-leash issues. Signs keep getting taken down.

## Communications — Gretchen Kilby

- A Monday Mailer is planned for the first week of school. Planning to reach out to the equity committee to see if they have messaging to share.

## New Business:

- How to structure our meetings this year? Last year there were some redundancies and repetition, so we moved to combine board and community meetings. But sticking to the strict time frame limited the amount of discussion that the board could have. Ideas: Move all “housekeeping” committee reports to Slack, where they can be read by all in advance, and then copied into the official minutes, freeing more time for discussion at board meetings. Also, we can experiment with having community meetings first, followed by the board meetings.
- Carolyn plans to dig into corporate matching this year, to maximize this and raise awareness of the possibilities.

John Grant makes a MOTION to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Hanna Nesper Newell seconds. Motion passes unanimously.