Community Meeting Minutes – 9/24/2015

Begin 6:02pm

1. **Welcome**

2. **PTA mission statement and board intro**
    a. Jim read from the OR PTA Bylaws to refocus everyone on the purpose of the PTA and we're here. Excerpt:
    "The organization shall work with the schools and community to provide quality education for all children and youth and shall seek to participate in the decision-making process establishing school policy, recognizing that the legal responsibility to make decisions has been delegated by the people to boards of education, state education authorities, and local education authorities. The organization shall work to promote the health and welfare of children and youth and shall seek to promote collaboration between parents, schools, and the community at large."
    b. Intros to the Board: Jim Kohler- President, Lisa Delaney- VP, Leah Woods- Secretary, Kari Threadgill- Treasurer

3. **PTA Standing Rules Vote**
    a. Info: The PTA will post the rules on the Support Abernethy site. We'll also post meeting minutes and monthly budgets there for everyone to reference.
    b. Jim read through the group rules, there were a few minor changes to the rules compared to last year. Jim reviewed the description of officers, membership dues, finance committee structure, and the other committees. Jim explained the consolidation of fundraising efforts compared to past years- this consolidation was successful last year, and he proposes we keep it that way this year.
        i. Q from parent: Do we want to change the language of the fundraising portion so we can add to fundraisers if we want without the majority of the PTA being required to approve the change?
        A: Jim will change the language so that an executive board vote is all that's needed to add/change fundraisers if we find that's needed.
    c. Unanimous vote to approve the rules for this year.

4. **Administration update with Heather Hull**
    a. Great start to the year, even though we are over the projected enrollment – last spring we had projected 492 students, we are now 513 students. We were awarded additional FTE's given this change.
    b. Money raised last spring was used for 2nd grade FTE to bring it to 4 sections; the district paid us back for that FTE given the enrollment changes; now we're looking at adding educational support roles with the additional FTE allocation. 1st grade is at 26, 27, 28, so slightly higher than we'd like- but rather than opening another class, we are opening a support position to support all grade levels so we can use that support where most needed.

c. We'll be getting an additional .5 counselor and full time Assistant Principal, but there is debate about the AP given we're past hiring season, so we'll see what happens. We're also getting an additional .5 teacher support in special ed. Larry the custodian left the district so we are interviewing for new daytime custodians & permanent night help. We currently have spotty help, so rooms are not getting clean. ½ time vacancy for reading support was created when the person filling that position last year was hired as a new full time 2nd grade teacher. We hired a new .5 reading support specialist. Also hired a new secretary (Tessa) in response to a big district push for 2 secretaries at all front offices.
d. We're in a good spot right now – more individualized instruction will be possible with reading and writing support, some grades will also have math support.
e. Schedule changes: There are more Specials: additional half hour of library, 2 half hour sections of PE and 2 half hour sections of music, garden 1 hour/week as appropriate for grade levels.
    i. Recess changes: By law and according to district policy specific minutes are required in each subject area (e.g., K is required to have 45 minutes of math each day; ask Heather for a full instructional time requirements break down if interested), between this required time and the additional Specials, it makes for short time for recesses and sometimes recess isn't fitting in the schedule. Teachers are working to give students breaks for stretching, etc. and PE is happening more in addition to the 30 minute lunch break. It's a challenge with time, but teachers recognize the need for kids to be physically active and are working to incorporate as much as possible into the current schedule.
        1. Q/comment from parent: I am noticing a problem with son in 4th grade. Understand constraints, but the lack of activity has been difficult for him.
        2. Q from parent: (About ed support person being hired) Was there outreach to 1st grade parents to ask about extra class versus the decision for general support across all grades?
           A: 1st grade isn't the only grade level with these class numbers, so we opted for general support for greater impact for all students. School staff and PTA leadership were consulted in the decision. It was noted that no one currently in PTA leadership roles has a child in 1st grade.

5. PTA updates:

a. **Taste of the Harvest** – (Jim) Event is Sat 5-9pm at St David of Wales. There are only 30 tickets left. Buy now! There will be food, bevs, music, harvest swap; it will be a fun community event. Some more volunteers needed: extension cords, ticket takers, raffle sellers, corn hole set, kid game coordinators, clean up crew- go to the Support Abernethy site to sign up! Free bev ticket for volunteers!
b. **SKG** – (Kari Brooke) We really need more business sponsorship drive participants - We raised $15K last year through the sponsorship and we're hoping to increase that number this year. We have brochures and all the materials available for the program, but we need people to just ask community businesses you frequent to be a sponsor and we'll

set you up with everything you need/they get. We're focusing on renewing businesses this fall and then will focus on signing up new in spring; Allison Lathrop is the lead on fundraising; ask her or Kari if you can help. All are welcome and invited to SKG committee meetings through the year. Little T bakery did a sponsorship last year and the owner visited the school to observe garden class, now he is a visiting chef and teaching 5th graders to bake bread. Sarah Murphy has started a "grass & roots" student reporter program in each class to highlight and report on garden class activities.

c. **Tour De Ladd** – (Janet Morgan) This is a fun community building event that emphasizes wellness and active life styles. It's our kick off fundraiser for the year; online registration going well this year; please ask for support from friends and neighbors. Still need help with barricade volunteers. There will be helmet sales at event, very inexpensive; check bikes before event and allow plenty of time for morning check in. Don't let kids ride bikes on blacktop after school. Look for instructions coming soon regarding pick up so all bikes make it home safely after the event.

d. **Auction** – (Christine Olsen) This is the largest fundraiser of the year. It's scheduled for March 11, at Castaway (same locale as last year). We grossed $107K+ last year. We will start hitting up volunteers in Nov.

e. **Basketball** – (Lisa Delaney) We need volunteer coaches – K-2 very straightforward, basic coaching – (don't need to know anything, just herd the kids to play). More info on the program will be coming in the next Monday Mailer.

6. Presentation about green schools from Jeanne Roy- Center for Earth Leadership

a. Portland Eco School Network – An organization of parents furthering sustainable practices in schools and in the district. Members have face to face meetings and online collaboration. Common things parent members do at schools include: forming a student green team, recycling events for non-curbside items, Halloween costume exchange, install water bottle filling stations. The organization is hosting dessert meet ups next week for those interested in learning more. A sign up for joining the network and/or attending a meet up was circulated. For those interested, they offer trainings. You can go here for more information or to sign up to become a member: http://www.earthleaders.org/eco-schools/

7. Q&A

a. **Q:** Are we accommodating online donations this year?
A: Support Abernethy site is new this year on the Shopify system. The Shopify system allows us to have a range of services: recurring payments, one-time payments, registrations, buy books for BOB, etc. It allows for a wide reach in fundraising because it is web-based and easily distributed.
Same website last year would have cost much more money to update this year; the Shopify site is much less money and we have a lot of tools to leverage within the site, like automated payment reminders, sign ups, etc.

b. **Q:** Is the PTA registered with the Oregon Cultural Trust?
A: The foundation is registered, but we aren't sure about the Abernethy PTA. The PTA Board will follow up to find out details and communicate them to parents.

c. **Q:** Are we getting a new Assistant Principal?
A: Yes, we are getting one along with .5 counselor and .5 special ed instructor, we just don't know if we'll have a successful recruitment of an AP given the time of year. Next year during budget cycle we will push against any proposed cuts they base on projections and instead strongly encourage/voice need to base budgeting on historic numbers so this type of situation (i.e. cut in spring, to build back post-fall) doesn't happen again.

d. **Q:** On what days will basketball be?
A: You can select days at registration for K-2, more info on schedules and registering will be in the next Monday mailer

e. **Q:** Do registrations over the summer count toward enrollment numbers when the school is closed?
A: The district budgets based on enrollment projections in the spring. Then official counts are done 1 week into the school year and again 2 weeks later – these are the counts that produce the official enrollment numbers (so summer enrollment changes don't really matter overall). There is a process for registering with the district office when school is closed in the summer.

f. **Q:** Do we know how the boundary review will impact us?
A: It's been a 2 year conversation, but we don't know when district will make decision. Transfer changes went into effect this year, boundary changes not sure. While in the meeting the district sent an email update regarding upcoming community meetings to share and collect feedback on plans to address district enrollment.

g. **Q:** How are decisions made on where kids sit at lunch?
A: 5th grade has free choice seating (as long as they are responsible); 3rd grade had free choice for "Wacky Wednesday"; 4th grade is interested and Heather is leaving it up to the teachers, so they may do something like "Free Seat Friday". K will never do flexible seating, other grades may have options for free seating.

h. **Q:** Right now it's impossible to adequately wash hands in school bathrooms- who can we talk to to change this? (the sinks require keeping a hand on the faucet to run water) **A:** If you are concerned about this, send Heather an email and she will pass it to the right people. The school nurse is doing hand washing lessons with students now.

i. **Q:** What is the straight story on Abernethy and seismic retrofitting?
A: All classroom walls are retrofitted, but the building structure is due to be retrofitted this coming summer. Heather is meeting with bond group tomorrow about this project. The building will probably be closed all summer for this work.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** There is a new PPS communication system in place. Sign up to receive school-specific text alerts. To sign up text YES to 68453.

Adjourn 7:15pm