

May 17, 2016 Agenda

1. Principal's Report

- Thank you for staff appreciation week! We enjoyed the treats during the week and lunch on Friday.
- MCA testing has finished up for grades 3-5 and we've started Mondo reading assessment and spring MAP testing for grade 2.
- Dollar General Grant - Thanks to Jill Dent for seeking \$4000 for multi-cultural books. These will go to classrooms. Two teachers have applied for other grants to multicultural books.

Budget and staffing update:

- Nurse was reinstated for an additional day of school year 16-17, 4 days per week to maintain what we have this year. We don't have to pay additional for this from our budget. This is coming from district.
- Based on teacher contract and additional support to schools for climate and culture, we have been awarded 0.5 counselor. We also are not paying additional for this. We are having Tuesday, Thursday and every other Friday.
- Ms. C-Smith's position was cut but she has rights to a classroom, bumping J. MacGregor on paper, but Ms. C-Smith is looking for another position. We will not have computer support next year, so this includes internet safety, iPad manager, website, and basic trouble-shooting.
- Still looking for art and music teachers. Jill is looking for a school to partner with to make full-time positions. If sharing a part time doesn't work, we will need one position full time for one of the subjects.
- Kindergarten round up this Thursday, May 19 from 4:30-6:00.
- Safe Routes to Schools: one of 3 SPPS schools provided with this opportunity from the city and Ramsey County Public Health. Community members applied for a grant and MNDot will provide a consultant and evaluate current conditions. We have an increase in walking and biking to school. The group will look at decreasing traffic congestion, improving air quality and help students arrive to school safely.

Family Engagement Plan:

Compact updated in the spring: The plan includes parents, teachers, students and administrator. Does the classroom review the compact? Teachers do this as part of their classroom rituals in the beginning of the year. Students sign the compact at home.

Family Partnerships

We talked about the engagement plan back in the fall. Teachers should be sending communication, emails, calendar and other means. Parents can be directed to the PTO website in the future. Is it possible to get a Chelsea Heights magnet calendar? We have a Chelsea Facebook page. We do an open house in the fall, a welcome back bonfire with NW Como, kindergarten round up, prospective parents invited to school events like Carnival, 5th graders shadow at Murray. Parents discussed how important a personal invitation is to get people to school. Do classrooms have a lead parent volunteer? That is determined by the teacher. Brooke coordinates volunteers for PTO events. We share information about Title 1 during our October PTO meeting. We have National African American Parent Involvement Day in February, Family Fitness Night, Literacy Night, Math Night, Science Fair Night. Interpreters will be available for conferences and as needed. Parents are invited to our monthly PTO meetings. We also had Parent Academy in the winter.

Teaching and Learning

Progress reports will be delivered to parents at Parent-Teacher conferences in November. Baggie books are sent home with students in grades K-3. Parent portal is available by contacting the secretary. Cheetah Chatter is emailed home monthly.

We discussed many ideas for getting more parent volunteers in classrooms and at school events. If you have any suggestions for ideas for improving our Family Engagement Plan please contact Jill.

Community Partnerships

Como Park Lutheran Church

2. NW Como: adult cooking, art and volleyball this summer. Check out our youth programs! Darcy is planning for fall. Let her know if you have ideas for programming. Could NW Como take on Running Club?
Soccer sign ups start June 1 (as well as all fall sports - la crosse and football). We will have individual registrations for la crosse, but it will not be a NW Como team. Practices for older kids are dependent on the coach who volunteers. Keep this in mind when you register. Those practice dates are not scheduled until a volunteer makes a schedule after registration is complete. Remember the early bird discount during the first few days!
3. Officer Positions: We are voting in our vice-president position and one treasurer position. Julie is interested in becoming a co-treasurer, vote passed. Carrie is interested in vice president, vote passed. We also created a grants committee chair which will become an executive position. Jamie Proulx has expressed interest, vote passed. We voted to extend Lisa's treasurer position for one more year.
4. PTO website: Carrie is working on creating a PTO website and is about half way done. She is looking for pictures of the school. The site will share dates of upcoming events and information about activities, flyers, and we are open to suggestions.
5. Playground: PTO asked for feedback from teachers about how to spend the \$4500 we have set aside for the playground. We have checked on any outstanding playground and rain garden expenses. Carrie suggested we ask teachers of special education students for some feedback about what their students might need or like in the playground. The child study team suggested a merry go ground with seats, seat facing each other. Jill requested a quote and it came back at about \$5000. We have also considered putting a closeable and lockable white board in the corner where we originally thought about putting in a stage. We were looking for suggestions for a different area to place the merry go round. The district will need to ok an area where we could place a white board and the merry go round. Will the district replenish sand and woodchips? We need to problem solve to figure out a way to take care of the stage area.

6. Running Club Wrap Up/Girls on the Run: Carrie gave an update. We need a volunteer for next year. The kids enjoyed it and we had about 70 kids. Registrations came in over spring break and pushed the number too high. The group was very large. We did a color run and popsicles on the last day. We are looking into a program called Girls on the Run. Each year we struggle with getting volunteers and coaches. This program is in other schools and they provide the coaches. This program would not include boys and that poses a conflict. NW Como could possibly take over the programming and registration to help limit registration. Jill will look into how St. Anthony Park runs their running club. Email Brooke if you're interested in volunteering.

7. Kindergarten Round Up: 4:30:5:30 this Thursday. Round up includes a bus ride, meeting the kindergarten teachers, meet some friends and learn about kindergarten. NW Como would like to be included in the information provided to parents. Brooke will be speaking on behalf of the PTO.

8. Budget Vote: We brought in over \$6000 for the Silent Auction.
We bought t-shirts for this year and next year for running club so it looks like we went over budget. We took in more income than we thought we would and our expenses are lower than we planned. We did not have a ski trip this year.
Jill Dent will look into a grant from Target for busing to Eagle Bluff.

We increased funding for science fair from \$250 to \$400.

We are starting to see more teacher grant reimbursements and requests coming in.

Let Julie and Lisa know if you have budget questions or ideas.

We voted on the budget and it passed.

In April we talked about spending PTO money on funds. PTOs cannot buy people/teachers. St. Anthony Park's association is taking input about putting \$30,000 toward the general budget in order to help their budget to keep a computer position.

9. We added changes to the bylaws:

- Added grants chair position as an executive position, forming a committee to help make decisions about how we spend teacher money.
- Split treasurer position to two people and staggered the two terms so they overlap, having only one position turn over at a time.
- There is some language written in the bylaws for not for profits. Our bylaws are filed each year.
- Check for some inconsistencies in dates with election dates.

Question: Can we put money toward acoustics in the cafeteria? We can add this to our questions for the architect. When students were surveyed they say the cafeteria is too loud.