

## February 16, 2016 Chelsea Heights PTO Meeting Minutes

1. Patrick Burke, Dallas Robertson - St. Paul Federation of Teachers
  - a. walk-in to support teachers - On February 17th parents, teachers and students are gathering before school to show support for the school and in support of settling the teacher contract. The contract is in state mediation. Meet at the school sign at 7:45 am. You are welcome to make signs. Chelsea teachers wear red each Thursday.
  - b. questions about contract -
    1. teachers and educational assistants (two different contracts)  
-additional support staff (librarians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, PE, etc.) Looking for substitute pool for these support staff, minimum pay rate to \$15/hour
    2. school climate issues: allow each school to have a climate team (teachers, admin and parents) who would make guidelines specific to their site, a positive school climate, uniformity when it comes to handbook rules - this is a first step. Second step: possibly restorative practices school - building relationships with students, not necessarily a punitive approach, it emphasizes bringing the community together - How has the learning climate been impacted by the student? It's about changing the school climate so parents and students and educators share ownership. Not a top-down district mandate - allows more school choice for consequences. Each building is unique. The spft.org website has information about restorative practices.  
-Chelsea has a part-time nurse. District put forward a district resolution instead of contract language in the last contract. A contract is legally binding. The district is asking for this in the contract this time. SPFT leaders can only influence the budget so much.  
-Teachers are looking for clear language and more binding language around things like support staff.
  - c. Next teacher mediation session is Feb. 18th.
  - d. Last time around there was a walk-in and a rally. Stay tuned for more events. SPFT did a straw poll to ask teachers which actions they would want to take to show support.  
How does SPFT look at implementation more evenly across district? The language of the contract and the election of new school board members. Reach out to your school board members.

## 2. Principal's Report

Regarding contract negotiations:

We have a school climate team, PBIS. We need a parent on the team. We meet once a month (Cheetah Challenge, Kindness Week, etc.).

We only have one EA(educational assistant) - Maria is an interpreter.

Jill asked parents-What are our prioritized needs? We have a licensed nurse four days a week and Julie Silver is there on Fridays. Julie also does library and other duties. Maura Thompson is in kindergarten. Sean Stewart is a behavior specialist and cultural advocate. Special education covers the social worker. We do not have a lot of extras at Chelsea. We have not had a librarian at Chelsea for several years. We have two hourly teachers, who are licensed teachers, and pay is up to 14 hours/week. EAs range about \$10-20/hour.

Check out Chelsea students on Bring Me the News on KARE 11. They have been featured twice and will be once more.

Awards Day tomorrow, next one is at the end of March.

Book Swap - 4th and 5th graders got their books today. PTO gives \$250 towards books.

Conferences are coming up again in mid-March. Letters will come out. The times used in the fall are used to make the schedule in winter.

The Science Fair is April 14th. Sarah Hobbie has volunteer grad students to help in grades 3-5, during STEM class, as those students will be required to complete a project. Kids can still work on them at home. Boards are \$3.50 and available from Mr. Altman. Art with the new teacher has begun.

Specialist classes will be discussed once the board comes out with their recommendations.

3. Box Tops Coordinator Needed for the 2016/17 school year. The current classroom Box Top contest ends on February 24th.

4. Literacy Night & Book Swap

Parent volunteers have been helping with Book Swap. Thank you!

Literacy Night is this Friday (2/19) from 5:30-8:00. Books not used for the swap are being used for the book walk at Literacy Night. We still do need more volunteers! Stations will be cleaned up by 7:00 to hear Brian the Story Man.

Attendance dropped last year so free pizza is back. Pizza will be served until about 6:15. We have a deal with Papa John's for about \$8/pizza.

Brian the Story Man from England is back this year. There will be themed activities for all ages. The Read a Thon ends on Feb. 24th. Forms do not need to be sent in each week.

5. Spirit Wear

- a. ordering at events - People like to be able to get gear at events.
- b. order form - Is there a need to send order forms home? At the time we don't have a lot of stock on hand for a form. We will look at a flyer for the future.

6. NAAPID, recap: Bagels (St. Paul Bagelry) and coffee (Underground Cafe) were donated. We had a master drummer, Brother Ghana (a teacher at Walker West). The day brings cultural awareness. Any suggestions for next year? Parents would like to see more time in the classroom. We adjusted the schedule to fit in the drummer's schedule. Parents, teachers and students really enjoyed his performance. A later morning performance

would accommodate more parent time in the classroom. Does the morning meet the needs of NAAPID and parents seeing kids in the classroom?

7. Budget - Not much has changed since January. We are on budget for almost everything. Teachers need to submit grants to PTO. Lisa Arcand has looked into a grant proposal for a mosaic for the school but compass artists are usually \$2000, plus materials for mosaics. A grant has been requested for sensory room supplies. We have also received a request for yearbook money. We have had requests for about \$900 out of \$6000 budget. Yearbook orders are coming in. Many families have sent in extra money. We will be doing the budget for next fall soon. Let us know if you have things you'd like to see in the budget. NWC asked about archery equipment. We got a check from Target today for about \$3000. A parent mentioned Holy Lands Foods (Cub, Target) is headquartered here in Twin Cities and has a program similar to Box Tops. The Papa John's code for our school for 20% off orders is "Cheetah". This is a fundraiser for Chelsea as well.
8. Holiday Celebrations - Cool Cats Care happened during the first half of the month. The district's holiday policy has been in place for a number of years. Another elementary principal followed through on the policy and Jill received a letter from the district office strongly encouraging schools to not participate in commercial holidays. Handing out of candy was strongly discouraged from the district. The school board will be speaking on this.
9. Labels for Education, program ending July 2016  
This isn't a monetary program, rather a points program. We have purchased pre-paid Visa cards in the past as an example. If you have labels at home, please send them in and listen for new information.
10. Executive Committee Positions - All positions turned over two years ago. We have two positions available this spring - The current secretary is only on year one. We would like elections to be in April. Current positions that will be up for election will be Co-Treasurer and Vice President.
11. NWC - March 1st is baseball and t-ball, near ball, coach pitch, machine pitch and 10-14 U baseball and softball summer sports registration. The first 5 days of registration are discounted. Check out the spring break offerings. We need a few more for the babysitting class - CPR and first aid training included. Look for a bright green flyer. There is also a tech academy flyer that went home. Download the St. Paul app for snow emergency information. Classes for seniors - Cooking for One and at North Dale there's a class for identity protection.  
Summer programming - Darcy is trying to take advantage of the summer lunch program by looking at morning and afternoon offerings. She also has looked at some of the programs

offered at the Street Car that were offered there last summer. She set up two weeks of all-day camps at NWC. Kids would walk to Como Pool in the afternoon.

12. Closing Remarks: We plan to do Color Run on the morning of June 4th, more details to follow.