

PTO Meeting Minutes 09/19/2017

1. Introductions

2. Principal's Report

A. Enrollment

- Enrollment projection for the year was 460
- Actual enrollment for 2017 – 2018 is 482 (up by 22 students over projection)
- On average there are 12 – 13 children in each grade level who are new to Chelsea. Principal Gebeke and Ms. Butterfoss have been going to each classroom and meeting them in small groups to welcome them.

B. Staffing

- Due to the late resignation of physical education teacher (decided to stay home with new baby), a new physical education teacher was hired on August 30th. He is adjusting well and has been a positive addition to the staff.
- We also have new third grade teachers Otto, Bangert, and Kraus. We have a new counselor, Ms. Nelson.
- We have a desirable building – teachers come here and tend to stay until retirement.

C. Morning Meeting

- The first all school morning meeting was a success. Mr. Matusak, who works on the drumline for the Vikings, brought his drum and used it during the meeting.

D. Cheetah Challenge

- We are developing responsive classrooms and working on our first Cheetah Challenge – making new friends and becoming part of the community.

E. Title I

- Principal Gebeke explained that we are a Title I Building and what that means.
- Title I buildings receive federal money designated for specific purposes.
- Next month, the Title I meeting will be held during the PTO meeting.

- Title I money follows the students that receive free and reduced lunch. We receive money for students who are struggling in reading, writing, math, and/or who have behavior concerns.

F. Family Compact

- The family compact is a document provided to families at the beginning of the year to be signed by the teacher, parent/guardian, Principal, and student.
- It is an agreement between all signers about what we commit to do to make the student successful.
- Please review the compact. If you have input about additions to the agreement, please let us know.
- Principal Gebeke presented a sample family compact from the 4th grade and went over the contents and invited comment.

G. Family Engagement Plan

- Our plan for family engagement includes providing a welcoming environment, family partnership (how you will receive information), teaching and learning (progress reports, etc.), and community partnership. Will have a copy of it for you at the next meeting about Title I.
- Please check out our calendar on the school website – our Chelsea specific events are listed there and it is updated regularly.

3. School Start Times

- Over a year ago the school board proposed to change school start times in order to allow older students (High School) to start later. Because the number of buses remains the same, other students (Middle and Elementary) must start earlier. For example, instead of starting at 8:30 a.m., we would start at 7:30 a.m.
- This proposal was based upon studies that show that older students function better later in the day.
- There was a preliminary vote last year and we were all told that the change would take place in the 2018 – 2019 school year. Since that time, the superintendent has changed and

there was no solid consensus on how or whether to implement the plan and so a new vote has been scheduled.

- At this point, no change would take place until the 2019 – 2020 school year.

4. Northwest Como Recreation Center

- The rec center is attached to the school. It opens at 3 p.m. and closes at 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, the rec center closes at 6 p.m.
- Please check out the many activities offered at the rec center in the brochure.
- John is typically at the meeting, but he's running the center tonight.
- Fall classes right now are available and registration is open.
- Basketball sign ups for kids age 3 through 18 are in September.
- The first 5 days of any sign up season are the discount days – take advantage.
- If you need help for the cost, there is a financial assistance form. We have copies at the center and John will help you fill it out. If approved, each child gets up to \$100 per child per year. The money is distributed as a 50% off for each activity for up to \$100 per child per year. After that, the cost of all activities goes back up to 100% of regular price.
- Tween dance coming up – you're all welcome to come and observe.
- Sept 28 at 6:30 p.m. booster club meeting
- Gaga pit coming on rotation basis
- Please make suggestions for classes
- Welcome bonfire on October 13th – there will be flu shots and a costume contest.

5. PTO Information (who and what we are)

- Half sheet will go home every month in the folders and electronically.
- Check out the calendar on the PTO website.

6. Fundraisers

- No Work Fundraisers – check out the calendars. No need to sell things – have dinner at Davanni's and a portion of your cost will go to Chelsea Heights.

- Coffee Truck – all teachers got free coffee (PTO covered the cost) on the first days of school and for everyone else we got kickbacks from the purchases. Provided by Wandering Mug.
- Other no work fundraisers include: The Saint Paul Bagelry; Mudslingers; Conny's Creamy Cone; Bare Honey
- Urban Growler no work fundraiser – This Sunday from 12-3pm.
- Barnes & Noble no work fundraiser last year was successful – a few hundred dollars raised, but we need volunteers present. Brooke is trying to get at date closer to Thanksgiving/Christmas.
- Trying to get Fantastic Sams as a no work fundraiser, but no reply yet.
- Saint's North no work fundraiser again this year.

7. Events and coordinators

- Please check out the PTO website – every activity and event is listed along with a description of the event and the work involved. It also lists how many volunteers are needed and whom to contact to help.
- The welcome back Bonfire is sponsored by the rec center, but PTO has a presence and will have Spiritwear available for sale.
- Other PTO events include: Literacy Night (including the Readathon, Principal's Reading All School Story, purchase of Scholastic Books for school if goals met), Family Fitness Night, Science Night, Silent Auction, and Carnival.
- Science Night is sponsored by Mr. Altman (science teacher), but the PTO provides support. Last year the root beer was donated by Lift Bridge and the ice cream was donated by Dar's Ice Cream. Both Lift Bridge and Dar's are local businesses who have been very supportive of the PTO.

8. PTO bylaws

- The board has proposed changes to the bylaws. The changes were announced and published on the PTO website in May of 2017 and continued throughout the summer. A reminder email was sent on September 5, 2017 regarding the proposed changes and directing people to the website.

- There is a quorum for the vote – 27 members present excluding principal and Mrs. Arcand.
- The VP reviewed the proposed changes. A voice vote was held. It passed unanimously.

9. Budget

Income 2016-2017 school year: \$50,153.08

Expenses 2016-2017 school year: \$52,772.05

Difference: **-\$2,618.97**

Largest expenses:

Classroom Grants \$7,000

Grants \$9,000

Eagles Bluff \$5,000

Larges fundraisers:

Club's Choice \$11,000

Silent Auction \$5,500

Carnival \$4,500

- The overspending was intentional and was easily absorbed by our reserves.
- This year will be similar with the addition of \$10,000 for two hourly para-professionals. They are licensed teachers. Last year, for example, Lisa Arcand could do separate high-level math group as well as other things. Teachers feel that it is a very big bang for the buck.
- Teacher stipends were reduced from \$250 to \$175 to try and offset the extra \$10,000 needed. Science will be increase to \$850, gym, art, and music all get \$500 each because they see all students in the school.
- Grants Committee
 - Grants committee offers block grants for onetime expenses that exceeds the amount the PTO allots for individual teachers.

- Exploring the use of www.donorschoose.org. Ms. Otto has experience in this area and will help the staff learn how to crowdsource.
- Adam, a parent present at the PTO meeting and on the grants committee, works for SPPS in the grants office. Working on a grant for Ms. Masrud for more instruments.
- Please reach out to Jaime, Grants Chair, if you have a grant you want to apply for or if you want to be on the committee.
- In reviewing last year's grants, only one was denied at the end of the year because the funds had expired. The program is still getting momentum and establishing guidelines.

10. Odds and Ends

- Please send in pink half sheets to be in the directory – put in as much or as little information as you need. Jaime is putting it together.

11. Closing remarks and questions

- None