



**PTO Meeting Notes  
November 7, 2018**

**NEIL CUMMINS**

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**Neil Cummins PTO**

**Welcome Hawk Parents**

**AGENDA 11/7/18**

Welcome

Call Meeting to Order

Principal Welcome and Updates - Patty Elliot

Board of Trustees Welcome and Updates - Jill Sellers (Measure J)

Neil Cummins Teacher Rep - Katherine Marcus

SPARK - Beth Mitchell

PTO VP Updates and Discussion Items:

Auditor - Amanda Dickerman

Campus Conservation - Laura O'Shea

Campus Events - Jessica Edelen

Communications - Lisa Losee

Fundraising - Sarah Youngs

Health and Safety - Daniela Kratz

Treasurer's Report - Carey Crumpler

Call to order: 8:20 a.m.

Jill Seller Update:

- Measure J passed at 72%, window shades have been installed, inspiring academic growth – under website, CASP data – doing better and continuing, looking at professional development, tests aligned with our teaching philosophy and approach, enrollment stable. Attendance critical to our funding. Ms. Beery resigned. Mr. Wolf will be working for Sausalito/Marin City and phasing out for facilities related work. Board joining a collaborative group with other districts to discuss different issues. Next board meeting next Wednesday.

Dina Harrison Update:

- Attended SPARK meeting – Thanksgiving 2017 lost \$10,000 due to kids being pulled out of school. Attendance – 5 days required Independent Study. If a child shows up at any point during the day, the school will get the funding.
- Picture Day update – lessons learned. Turn around for final pix took longer than anticipated. Very little time between original and retake day. Packets did not necessarily include a class picture. Free class photos for all kids next year and free packets for some.
- Snack Friday: classroom coordinators are continuing for Fridays. Snacks always welcome aside from Fridays.

Patty - Principal Update:

- Staffing – Mr. Wolf (director of maintenance and facilities) retired. New person hired (Erik von Blankenburg). Noisy gardeners (blowing and mowing!) will be held before and/or after school hours.
- Looking for new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher (hired Emily Matto, started 11/26/18). Looking to fill new para-professional individual (hired Charles Likas, started on 11/26/18). Math professional development with UCLA Center X - all teachers participating in lab days, grades K-8. Reading/Writing professional development program and lab days with all grades, K-8.
- Halloween successful.
- Video games and Fort Night – please monitor. Playing out in negative ways at school. Violent and creating issues at school. Reminder to parents about monitoring devices and games that children are using at home.
- Find common language for reader/writer workshop- request from parent. Official name: Writers' Workshop and Readers' Workshop. CGI Cognitively Guided Math problem solving.
- Thanks to other 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers for stepping up and helping out with room C2 third grader class. Report cards due- sent home to parents on 11/16/18. Room C2 3<sup>rd</sup> grade report cards will go home on 12/21/18. Ms. Emmons' class will have parent teacher conferences week of 11/26 to 11/30 – substitutes (Ms. DeForrest and Ms. Tribolet) worked on student report cards collaboratively.

Ms. Marcus Update:

- **Kindergarten**– Students are wrapping up a five-week round of Robotics and they have LOVED learning to program their “Bee Bots!” Now that most kiddos have learned the operational basics, Ann-Marie Skaggs has tailored the lessons to follow Kindergarten curriculum, including formation (Math) number formation, (Phonics) beginning sounds of words with letters, and (Science) parts of trees.
- **Second**– Second graders are studying Fairytales and writing adaptations of the classics. The students were able to retell Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood by capturing various scenes through Tableaux. Students and teachers are so happy to have Ms. Krista back teaching Mindfulness. Students are incorporating the lessons into their daily lives: using the body scan to relax and fall asleep, remembering to breathe when feeling scared or anxious, and sending out love and positive thoughts to friends, family, and classmates. Ms. Krista makes us all feel better!
- **Third**– (From Liza Mathews) Please give an extra special thanks to the PTO for funding Alan Scofield in third grade for our Miwok dance program...It really adds a lot to the curriculum to have this incredible element of music and dance incorporated! (From Tegan) 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is performing their Miwok circle dances of celebration this Tuesday. We love this culmination of our Miwok unit. We SOOOOO APPRECIATE PTO for helping us fund this program. (From Kathy Taylor) I want to shout out to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade dancers. The performance today was really good! Their instructor was fabulous. I think Tegan filmed it. Please let the PTO know that this is a program of value.
- **Fourth** – 4<sup>th</sup> grade had a fabulous field trip to the Lawrence Hall of Science to do engineering workshops in hydraulics! Partners worked together to design and build a mechanism to push or lift weights using hydraulics. The grade level also created interesting murals during our art intervention period this trimester – inspired by the novel we are reading, The Tiger Rising, students drew and created images of character and the setting. Underneath these images, students created art, which represented the symbolism or imagery of these same characters and setting. The new Lucy Calkins reading curriculum teaches students to build interpretations of a story by looking for repeated objects and considering a deeper meaning for these objects. – symbolism! (From Janet Pollack)

Beth Mitchell update:

- SPARK announcement: Launching participation challenge in November. Giving Tuesday November 26. Driving early participation to hit goal of 1.4 million for district. Increased campus presence. Tables at Kinder loop and Blacktop entrances. Pledge now pay later. Nothing Bundt Cakes if we hit 50%. Denise Lipiansky drew “growing tree” for kids to put thumb prints. Any representative benefiting from SPARK will be at tables (art, music, tech) to educate parents what money goes towards.
- Trying to fill two positions on boards. 1) On-line auction coordinator- coordinate all individuals auction items on line 2) E-script coordinator: Nugget primary market. Amazon Smile – get out word and Boon Supply willing to partner to earn money towards SPARK.

Amanda Dickerman Update: Nothing to report

Laura O'Shea Update:

- Green Team meeting weekly. Make art with wrappers. Suggested being as “green” as possible with upcoming Holiday Store.

Jessica Edelen Update:

- Math night tomorrow night. “Pizza Gate” – Marin Pizza did not work out. Stefano’s will provide it for the night. Hall students helping with math tables (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> only.) 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be selling baked goods for their fund. Dr. Brown will be attending Math Night.
- Holiday store: JE to do work order. Organize and get out sign up out now. Newsweek update and push for holiday store. Push for clean up crew.
- Variety Show: Considering limited grade opportunity. Considering push back on date. Lisa Buoy and Lisa Morozoff.

Lisa Losee Update:

- Updated marquee, shout out to Mani – great job. Mani’s last day this Friday.

Sarah Youngs Update:

- Math Night sales – two tables for Spirit Wear

Danielle Kratz update:

- Month into fall fundraiser for Good Eggs. Need 20 new customers to get kick-back of \$500. Option for one fund raiser a year. Perhaps only spring fundraiser so as to not compete with SPARK and Readathon fundraisers. Until end of November: neilcumminsfall18 to receive discount. Minted fundraiser too. Email went out to all classroom coordinators regarding Good Eggs, Minted, Amazon Smile, etc.

Carey Crumpler Update: (will send budget via email to include.)

- Budget tight: Adapt Parent Ed and Measure J used funds not previously seen. Need to adjust budget accordingly. No reserve. Membership was more successful this year. Selling flowers at

Variety Show and looking for other ideas to raise money. Corporate Match available but needs to be more seamless. Work through Carey Crumpler to facilitate matches. Corporate Match needs to be communicated better.

Lori Emerson Update:

- Buddy Bench painting – Lori to spear-head project to paint bench with 3rd grade classes.

Patty Elliott: Shelley Hutchinson's green thumb appreciated!

Adjourn: 9:36 a.m.