

## **Jefferson Parent Council Meeting Notes**

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019

5:30 pm, Jefferson School, Rm 9

Attendees: Lona Carter, Sara Eldridge, Leann Murphy, Kim Patterson, Meghan Wirth, Julie Feldman, Lynn Maciver, Susan Sielbach, Abby Kuhl

### **1. Review of vision, mission, guiding principles for JPC**

- Kim read aloud the vision, mission, guiding principles

### **2. Grade-level grant update: 1<sup>st</sup> grade**

- 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Abby Kuhl, gave the update: so far, she has bought stools for her classroom standing table that are more comfortable—the kids love them. She has also bought Velcro for name tags so that the kids can move around and take their name tags with them—more flexible seating options. She also found window coverings/tint to keep the sun from being too overbearing through the classroom window (blinds make the room too dark). She still has about \$300 left (of her \$500) and Mrs. Franklin has not yet spent her money.
- Discussed the question about rolling unspent money into the next school year. No decision was made, but parents/families that donate money want to see the money spent, and they want to know that their children benefit from their donations—not saved for future students.
- It is also good to provide the same amount of money to each grade level, but the point was made that higher-grade levels may have additional expenses. Discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip as an example and that the trip is funded by JPC in addition to the grade-level grant. Scholastic News subscriptions also take a big chunk—only 1<sup>st</sup> grade is not using it.
- Abby also discussed the need for smart notebook projector licenses. Both Kindergarten and Mrs. Franklin's classes have expired licenses, and other classes will expire soon.
  - JPC has \$1,559 left in Tech (donated for the Tech Run). Lona prefers to get all teachers on the same licensing cycle. Decision was made for JPC to pay for 8 classrooms to have 4 year-licenses—K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We will also have to ask/confirm with business donors how they wish their donations to be spent.
- Abby also requested that JPC consider paying for a new blacktop for the playground, and many parents have also been requesting upgrades to playground equipment. But Lona feels this should be covered by District Maintenance. Following security upgrades this summer, we should be getting maintenance updates, including the blacktop, within the next 2 years or so. Regardless, whoever works on the playground needs to be aware of the flood prevention already in place. Another option for getting new playground equipment may be to apply for grants that help schools obtain safety equipment.

### 3. Cash Drive Update

- Kim has drafted a letter to send home with students, and it is being printed. Lona agreed to send an email to Jefferson families with a digital version of the letter.

### 4. Ambassador Program Report (see full summaries for more details)

- **Kinder:** requested a shade structure on the playground (Lona says we already have one. It is not used now because older kids were jumping on top of it. The poles are in place, so we could install a shade sail—needs to be open). They would also like to give new students “trinkets” or shirts with Jefferson logo at the start of the school year to welcome them.
- **1<sup>st</sup> grade:** Requested new pencil sharpeners, updated props and costumes. They really like having Second Chance Breakfast and the foreign language program. Mrs. Franklin would like to have yoga in the classrooms, and she suggests having a teacher training for this.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> grade:** teachers really appreciate the community-building activities that JPC supports. They feel that parents do not fully understand the funding issues at Jefferson—how much personal money teachers spend for student rewards, treats, and school supplies. Start-of-year school supplies, such as name badges, locker tags, flip-chart paper, sharpies, etc....are not included on the school supply list. The Jefferson “atmosphere” is very supportive—Lona and all teachers and staff fill each other’s needs and protect each other. It is very unclear how JPC funding works. Mrs. Hawkins would prefer a simple, easy method for requesting funds—no hoops. Money should be requested as needed, and she would like to have frequent updates about money available and how funds have been spent (by other teachers).
- **3<sup>rd</sup> grade:** have no grand ideas for spending the money, and they were unsure how to request funds. They will not give a presentation to JPC. Issues for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade include students not able to reach their upper lockers and how to improve the look of the NW corner of the school. They also don’t like being next to the library.
- **4<sup>th</sup> grade:** Discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip—is it included in the grade-level grant? No, the trip is funded by JPC in addition to the grade-level grant. Scholastic News subscriptions also take a big chunk—only 1<sup>st</sup> grade is not using it. There was also a question of accepting funding requests in addition to the grant money. The answer is basically yes, if funding is available. The purpose of JPC is to support teachers, students, and their classes. 4<sup>th</sup> grade would also like to stock their science closet, which would go beyond the \$1,000 grant.
- **5<sup>th</sup> grade:** ambassador not present at meeting
- **Overall, teachers are not aware of what they can spend the stipends on, the process for spending and requesting money from JPC, and the purpose of attending JPC meetings.** So, Leann will draft an email for teachers to give a better explanation.

## **5. Principal's Report**

- The safety/security updates will start over spring break this year, and they plan to break ground just as school is out. Security updates will include a major remodel of front offices, a new set of [locked] security doors with keyless entry, a security system with cameras, reader boards for transmitting security messages/updates, and a “one-button” total lockdown feature. Lona reported that this will be a shift for our community, in that parents will have to be buzzed into the building before entering. Doors will not be left open before and after school.

## **6. Other Topics Discussed**

- The February JPC meeting is scheduled during a Literacy Night. Suggest having a JPC table for the event instead of the usual meeting.
- One School, One Book—who is working on it, and when?
- The Halloween carnival fundraising was just a little less than it was last year.
- Gala? Lona's plan is coming—there will be performances over 3 months with a final, grand event
- The next PAC meeting is next week.