

## Jefferson Parent Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 9, 2020

5:30 pm, *online via Zoom*

Attendees: Sara Eldridge, Leann Murphy, Kim Patterson, Meghan Wirth, Lona Carter, Jason Danielson, Julie Feldman

### 1. Finance Report

- There has been little change to the JPC budget since schools closed in response to COVID-19.
- Some checks may have been delivered through the school mail, which is on hold. Lona will ask Brenda if she can look for check(s) at Jefferson, but there are strict rules about who can enter the building right now.
- Other income recently arrived from SECGC and Amazon Smile.
- We need to discuss further what to do with funds that cannot be spent this year due to the shutdown, primarily teacher stipends.
- Lona: The District is not doing their typical end-of-year spending because of the shutdown, so funds will be rolled into the next school year. This means there will not be an end date for current year spending.
- Scheduled a budgeting meeting for the next school year on April 23 at 5:30 via Zoom. It is important to have a plan for spending and fundraising soon to better communicate our goals with parents over the summer and early next school year.
- Funding requests:
  - Foreign language program: because this cannot continue in person, the remaining lessons were posted online for K-2 and 3-5. Jefferson did not ask the instructors to do this, and they generously reduced their fee. Lona has asked JPC to pay for the extra effort to convert the foreign language classes to the online platform, \$1,200. It was decided to split this \$600 from JPC and \$600 from Gala, since foreign language education is considered student enrichment. Funds will also be available for other cancelled events, including the Myrna Loy, Shakespeare In the Park, and Helena Symphony events. Lona further asked that JPC give the teachers each \$600 to cover their time (they have both agreed to come back to Jefferson next school year).
  - Susan Sielbach requested funds for the Global Read Aloud, which will begin next fall and will replace the annual One-School, One-Book program. She has some funds from last year's Halloween carnival, but has asked that JPC cover the remaining \$257 needed. Books will be purchased locally from the Montana Book Company.

- Many teachers left their receipts for stipend purchases in their classrooms and cannot get back into the building now to get them. Discussed rolling all remaining funds into the first quarter of the next school year.

## **2. Teacher Appreciation Day/Week (May 4-8)**

- Ideas???? How can we make this work remotely?
- Some suggestions included having students post messages to teachers on social media, sending personal thank you's via e-mail, posing videos, etc.
- Lona offered to provide email addresses to teachers.
- It is particularly important to get positive feedback to para's now because they are tutoring children and providing additional support to families now.
- Decided to discuss this further at the April 23 meeting.

## **3. Read-A-Thon**

- Do we want to participate this spring? It may be an effective way to bring students and families together, and it could be incorporated into the accelerated reader (AR) program already in place. AR records the number of books, but parents would have to keep track of time spent reading.
- Group discussion but decided NOT to add this now to already stressed families.
- We will consider this for next year.

## **4. Principal's Report**

- Kindergarten orientation and other events are postponed until the Governor decides if/when to re-open schools on April 24.
- All standardized testing has been cancelled for this year.
- Lona has been focusing on connecting better with struggling Jefferson families.
- Online instruction will now be framework lessons—2 ELA and 2 Math assignment sets per week.
- There are typically gaps in learning remotely, especially when new material is added. So, the District has developed this framework of instruction based on students meeting essential, basic standards. These essential standards must be clear.
- Parent feedback has been either very positive or very negative. But Lona and teachers are sensitive to the need to keep parents from getting overwhelmed while keeping students engaged.

## **5. Action Items Summary (as of April 9)**

- Kim: Send the foreign languages invoice to Leann
- Meghan: Follow up on SMART schools presentation

