

Jefferson Parent Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 14, 2020

5:30 pm, *online via Google Meet*

Attendees: Sara Eldridge, Leann Murphy, Kim Patterson, Meghan Wirth, Lona Carter (joined at 6pm), Jason Danielson, Julie Feldman, Abby Kuhl, Rachel Carrol Rivas, Laura Pfister

1. Abby Kuhl, first grade teacher

- Ms. Kuhl presented the idea by some Jefferson teachers to place pinwheels in students' yards as an end-of-year treat to students; teachers at Jim Darcy are also doing it.
- Abby will discuss the idea with all teachers at tomorrow's staff meeting. If most or all other teachers are willing to participate, can JPC sponsor the pinwheels?
- Would like to get blue pinwheels to represent Jefferson's school color, but these are \$30/classroom, but they received poor reviews on-line (Oriental Trading Co.). The better-quality ones used by Darcy are 24 for \$10. These are white, but they can be personalized.
- Teachers would personalize them and deliver to his/her students' homes (avoiding personal contact). This could be quite a lot of work for teachers; can JPC help? Addresses? What about students that live out of the Jefferson area? What about teachers that have other plans for end-of-year celebrations?
- If they are delivered the week following the student/family meetings (week of June 1), that would give almost a month to prepare them and teachers will not be as busy. Expect to deliver 3-4 per day.
- Voted unanimously to have JPC sponsor the pinwheels with the assumption that most or all teachers will participate in this or a comparable activity.
- All teachers agreed to participate in this endeavor in their staff meeting on 5/15. JPC purchased pinwheels on 5/15 to be sent directly to Abby to distribute to teachers at a total cost of \$130.

2. Finance report

- As of today, all expected income has been received. Brenda retrieved the mail, which included checks from Newfields and Box Tops for Education.
- Recent invoices included \$130 for Second Chance Breakfast, and Spanish lessons were paid for (\$600 from JPC budget, \$600 from Gala budget).
- Expect there will be about \$8,600 remaining in budget by the end of June. Final year end report will be provided by end of July 2020.
- Discussed HEF Carnival participation again. JPC does not really want to sponsor the booth next year, but Lona will ask the staff for a volunteer to pick it up. We will discuss

further over the summer, if the carnival is not cancelled due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns. Need to determine the best way to get buy-in over the summer so it's not so much work the first 10 days of the school year.

- Teachers have until the end of the first quarter in the next school year to spend their grants.
- During the April budget meeting, JPC officers agreed to prioritize funding for Second Chance Breakfast, the foreign language program, and teachers stipends. This will require us to raise at least \$2,500 in the fall 2020 Cash Drive and an additional \$1,500 earmarked for Foreign Language.
- Scholastic News: Lona recommends not purchasing paper subscriptions next school year, especially if we continue with remote learning. She will talk to teachers at the next staff meeting about their interest in continuing the subscription and in what format. Leann will discuss with Brenda what has been actually ordered for the fall and rename budget line item to "Supplemental Curriculum."
- How will the fundraising, social events, and student support services look next school year if we have not yet returned to normal operations????? What will JPC's role be?? So much uncertainty right now, so difficult to plan.
- The 2020-2021 JPC budget was voted on and approved.

3. SMART Schools Challenge

- Jefferson was selected as a DEQ Green School in their SMART School Challenge. CONGRATULATIONS MEGHAN! There will be an award presentation May 18 at 2pm.
- Jefferson will receive \$1,000 to spend in any way, although DEQ recommends using the money to invest in further "green" projects for the school.

4. Principal's Report

- Lona has had several meetings regarding standards-based grading to have a logical end to the school year, given that the last quarter was taught remotely. To support this, Jefferson will have a remote review with each student at the end of instruction, week of June 1, that will include ½ hour meetings to discuss how remote learning has been working for the students. This plan is still in progress, but it should give families some closure.
- We will likely have some combination of distance and in-class learning next school year. How to do this in a positive and constructive way?
- The building security upgrades are now a month ahead of schedule, so they will likely be finished before the next school year begins.

- The District has started discussing how to obtain parent feedback regarding remote instruction. This is needed for planning services to students and Jefferson families.
- Teacher salaries are continuing as they have been, but much concern over how the District will balance the budget in the next legislative session. Discussed possibilities for parents to demonstrate concerns at the Capital.

5. Other

- Rachel presented ideas on having a virtual gathering of Jefferson students. It has been a challenge to keep kids engaged and productive with on-line connections. So, adding more may not be the best idea now. We can revisit this in the fall, if we are still working remotely.
- Should we do a year-end solicitation for donations to JPC? Rachel agreed to draft a letter. Should we include a parent survey? Lona agreed to send out the letter, preferably in the last week of May. Leann agreed to draft the survey. SEND QUESTIONS TO LEANN BY WEDNESDAY MAY 20.