Petrova Parents’ Club Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2014

Petrova Elementary Library

Attendees: Joe Dockery, Don Carlisto, Suzanne Brosseau, Jen Yousey, Zoe Smith, Chrissy Hayden, Jen Small, Chad McCarthy, Bob Laba, Polly Kelting, Carrie Bradley

Guest: Joe Dockery, Pendragon Board Member, Rotary Member

* Musician Joe Craven coming to the area this fall to Pendragon. He is a multi-instrumentalist who does school programs that build self-esteem, promote arts education, and creative problem solving.
* He is available only on Friday, Oct 10 and could do multiple assemblies, each lasting approximately 55 min- an hour.
* The cost is $1500 for 2 days. Pendragon could contribute $1000. A Rotary Club of Saranac Lake (The Rotary) Community Grant could possibly cover the other $500 through their Arts in Education grants. This grant is due Apr 15. Joe passed out a summary of the procedures for community grants that The Rotary follows.
* The Rotary also funds field trips and Winter Carnival next year could be another opportunity for funding.
* Chad will reach out to Bruce about the dates for the middle school.

Guests: Don Carlisto, Middle School Teacher and Susanne Brosseau, 4th Grade Teacher

* School budget has a $900,000 budget deficit. No easy answers; all the low hanging fruit has been plucked. There is not a significant number of savings through attrition this year.
* Teachers are here to encourage parent participation at the board meeting on Wednesday
* Teachers believe that the school will look very different next year. 10 TAs are scheduled to be laid off next year in the district. We don’t know details of where. It is possible that Kindergarten could have 21 kids with no TA and 4th grade 25-26 kids with no TA. There are some places where the district has been heavily staffed and some places where there is understaffing.
* There are 2 categories of teaching assistants (TA’s): TA attached to special education programs and General Education TAs who are direct support for core education. Most of the layoffs will be the General Education TAs.
* Teachers suggest that there will be increased safety concerns issue with reduced staff.
* Why seniority based layoffs (last one in first one out)? Because according to the teachers, there is no other fair way and this is typically how unions operate.
* Petition going around (change.org) to suggest to the BOE there would be support from the community to go over the tax cap. If it is voted down, district could put up a different budget and if that budget failed again, then allowable increase would be 0%.
* In this year’s state budget the governor has implemented measures to freeze taxes. Also, voters that are in districts that have the tax levy under the cap will get a rebate check. Dan provided some examples of rebates $30 for a $200 K home.

Treasures Report

* Expenses this month include gifts for after school program volunteers, and pretzels for Family Dance

Grant Report

* Iron Man Report filed by Zoe. She is continuing to work on it, as the format of reporting changed and it is more time consuming.

Nominations for new officers:

* No nominations came in. Officers will contact potential candidates personally between now and May 1.
* Email teachers to give nominations for Parent Club officers. Polly will email to Chad to email to teachers.

Teacher’s Appreciation Luncheon:

* Date moved to the 15th, even though it’s a half day. Lunch service must end at 1pm, as teacher meetings will begin.
* Chad will check for availability of the cafeteria.
* Jenn will go back to Thai restaurant to follow up with initial meeting by Polly, perhaps with more money to offer. Other idea was to have a sandwich platter prepared by Lake View Deli.

Safe Routes to School Request

* Sell the benefits of walking, biking to school and generate excitement
* September would be a good time
* Would like to have a guest speaker come and talk to kids about walking and biking safety, routes, and generate excitement

Petrovathon: June 23 and 24th

* Polly presented an overview of the “jog-a-thon” event for the last week of school, now called the Petrovathon. She met with Mr. Morgan and Mr. Munn to plan the details.
* Basic structure will be 3 grades will go each day where the children would have to keep moving in whatever way they choose for different lengths of time, ranging from 20 min to 40 min. The shorter times are for the younger grades and the longer times for the older grades.
* Could have sponsorship levels: $1 the Hula Hoop, $5 the Golden Jump Rope, $10 the Goal Post or more. Money will support the purchase of P.E. and outdoor recess equipment purchased by PPC and shared with the Saranac Lake Area Summer Youth Program. Amount to be determined.
* Children will set their own goals for the number of laps they think that they will complete and could collect pledges based on that number.
* Laps will be a small distance, set by the P.E. teachers, perhaps 1/8 of a mile and located in the athletic field.
* Parents and teachers will assist with bracelets, counting laps for their class, handling the money.
* PPC will supply music, popsicles, bracelets, and prizes.
* Prizes will be small and awarded by class at the last day of school assembly; the class with the most laps and the class that raised the most money.

Principal Update

* Petrova’s got talent 5th grade Friday; parents are welcome.
* ELA testing went well.
* Discussed PPC Luncheon and Petrovathon at faculty meeting. He will pass out a sign-up sheet for the luncheon. There was general support for Petrovathon.
* An Ipad mini was donated.
* More tables are in cafeteria, monitors allowed the 4th and 5th graders sit where they want. It is 50% quieter. There is a corner table, where kids can sit to get control of their hands. Keep golden tray for the younger students and for older students can have a reward like more outside time.
* Assessment team, we are losing literacy and math coaches, and will now figure out how to use the data more efficiently.

Other business:

* Chad to get Price Chopper Points catalog to Jen Yousey
* Zoe introduced a Coffee with the Principal and the Superintendent idea. Proposed to wait until after the May board meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50pm

Next meeting on May 5, 7pm in Petrova Elementary Library