**Petrova Parents’ Club Meeting Notes**

**March 3, 2014**

**7-8:30 pm Petrova Elementary School Library**

Attendees: Zoe Smith, Heidi Kretser, Jenn Small, Mandy Maori, Polly Kelting, Carrie Bradley, Jen Yousey, Chad McCarthy, Meghan Samolis, Bob Laba

**Meghan Samolis: Program Manager Enhanced Behavior Program, North Star**

* Program created in 2001 for kids K-8 to assist kids lacking positive role models.
* There is one on one mentoring, one hr. per wk. for one school yr. usually meeting after school (8 children maximum). There is also a summer youth program (8 children maximum).
* The program matches an adult with a child and provides support and training for the mentors.
* Priority given to the highest risk kids based on various eligibility requirements.
* Contact Meghan or Chad if you think you can help.

**Heidi Kretser: Dyslexia Film Screening**

* Heidi reported that North Country School screened the film, “The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia” and hosted a community discussion afterwards. She is part of a small group of parents with dyslexic children and would like to see the film screened here.
* Tues, Mar 18 at 7 pm in the Petrova Auditorium is open.
* Chad will send out the building use form, post on face book, and send an ALERT Now the Friday before.
* Heidi will put together the flyer and send to Polly for distribution.
* Are there other ideas for marketing the session to raise awareness?
* Teachers will have a session on dyslexia during the May half day.

**Treasure’s Report**

* No transactions to report.

**Mini-Grant Process**

* District would like all technology purchases to be conducted through Caroleigh.
* Next year the mini-grant applications for technology purchases should go through Caroleigh for approval. PPC will then pay the district for the purchase.

**Box Tops and Tops Card Numbers**

* About 2,025 box tops collected; the incentive worked!
* Chrissy submitted the box tops on Saturday.
* We will be getting a check $225.
* June 2 will be the last collection date. Funds will still be posted to this year’s budget.
* Top’s has a “cash for schools” program that we are enrolled in. Polly will print out forms to collect card numbers from parents, perhaps at Parent-Teacher conferences?

**Officer Elections**

* We will solicit nominations for open offices, President, Treasurer and/or Secretary on Facebook, survey, email, or distributed flyer.
* Nominations due by April meeting, appointments made in May or June.
* Polly will draft the letter home soliciting nominations next week, using the bi-laws as a guide. Once approved, she will copy and distribute.

**Teacher Conferences: Friday, March 14 and Monday, March 17**

* Parents can bring in snacks, soups, etc. and leave in office with Nona, who will transport to teacher’s lounge. Lori cannot do it this year. Zoe will contact Lori regarding her parent list.
* Zoe will post a Facebook note for parents to bring in goodies Fri and Mon afternoons.

**Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: Thurs, May 8**

* Each grade sends in an item: salad, desert, drinks, dessert
* Norma wants to help and we can ask if there are other middle school parent volunteers available.
* The flyer requesting food items needs to be ready for distribution the day we get back to school after spring break, April 28.
* Thai Restaurant? Polly will stop in to find out about pricing.

**Family Dance: Mar 20, 6:30-8 pm**

* School website and calendar need to be changed from Mar 13th to the 20th.
* PPC provides pretzels, lemonade (or water), and balloons.
* Zoe and Mandy will talk to Kim and Casey
* Polly will contact the DJ Joe Kilburn to see if he is still willing to DJ for us gratis.

**After School Programs**

* Programming is going smoothly. Current sessions will run until spring break.

**Middle and Elementary School Club Conversations**

* Some pros to merging with the Middle School Parents’ Club (MSPC) include: greater economy of scale and streamlining fundraising, access to a wider range of expertise, help with building wide projects such as the Petrova Green Initiatives, and many parents have children in both schools.
* Some cons to merging are: increased meeting lengths, parents with children in only one school may not be interested in listening to topics relevant to the other school. This may discourage attendance.
* MSPC goals at this point are mainly to fund field trips. The mission of PPC is to provide support for the academic and social needs of the Petrova Elementary School community and enriches the educational experience of our children and their families.
* Originally there were building level teams which focus mostly on events and activities particular to the kids in the building.
* We could try it out and start with a few events and activities that are already somewhat shared. The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon in May has included middle school teachers. We can solicit middle school parent volunteers for this event. Next year we could consider more of a joint event at winter Carnival.

**Jog/Walk A-thon: Last week of school**

* We brainstormed ideas for the jog/walk a-thon during some of the half days the last week of June. Maybe 2 grades for each day. For example, grades K and 1 could each walk/run for an hour on Jun 23; grades 2 and 3 on Jun 24; grades 4 and 5 on Jun 25. Not much room for a rain date.
* Kids get pledges for whatever number of laps they complete in given time (could be half hour for younger grades and an hour for older grades). Parents could participate with their children.
* When each child completes a lap, they put a bead on their bracelet. At the end, they take their bracelet home as a memento. Gym teachers could decide the format. Polly has discussed the general idea with Mr. Morgan, who was receptive and seemed willing to pursue.
* Prizes could be given by grade level, most number of laps during time period, careful to recognize the value of teams, perseverance.
* PPC spends about $31 on each child at Petrova.
* This could replace the holiday raffle fundraiser if successful.
* Polly will work with Mr. Munn and Mr. Morgan to flush out these ideas.

**Principals Update: Chad McCarthy**

* The idea of increasing Petrova Green Initiatives went over well at the faculty meeting. There is a meeting to discuss ideas with a cross-section of people from the community tomorrow night. There seems to be a lot of interest.
* Reader’s Day is mostly set, thanks to the Rotary Club for coming again.
* Music in our schools is happening at the end of the month.
* Cafeteria management- staff is going to give children at tables jobs, for example, the cleaner. Also, trying to give children more space by getting more tables and arranging them differently. Chad is working with Bruce Van Weelden on this, since it impacts middle school too.
* Chad is reviewing the Formative Assessments to find assessments that will work for kids not against.
* April 30, May 1, and May 2 are the Math State Tests

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting: April 7 at 7pm in Petrova Elementary Library**