

FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTSA 2.18.15

General Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2012

Call to Order: Kirsten Patterson, President

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2012 General PTSA Meeting

Kirsten moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Sophie Harris. Minutes approved as written.

Principal's Report: Dan Schlotfeldt

Dan welcomed everyone and thanked the Fall City Elementary teachers for being at the meeting. Dan explained that the only measurements that use to be available to measure student performance was the WASL and MSP but now there are many reports and data points available. Dan said the goal is to have 100% of students meeting standard and/or exceeding standard. Chief Kanim was the top middle school in Washington state in many areas. Sophie Harris added that Chief Kanim is doing so well because of all the Fall City Elementary students that are doing well and those students go to Chief Kanim for middle school.

Dan shared the results of the MSP test scores. All grades either met or exceeded standard with only a handful of students not meeting standard. The trend is continuing upward for all grades meeting standard and many students are exceeding standard in reading and math. Additionally the statistics also show that a large percentage of students who are qualifying for reduced lunch are also meeting standard. The gender gap seems pretty level with a slight bump with males for 4th grade math and a bump for females in 5th grade math. Over half of the 3rd and 4th grade students are exceeding standard in reading. And in 5th grade the percentage is even higher at 71% exceeding standard in reading. There is also a large percentage of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students exceeding standard in Math. Parents should be receiving MSP scores for their children from the district soon. Teachers will begin pinpointing areas needing improvement by student using the Dash board, there is no more waiting like there was in the past. Needs are being addressed in the present time to make an immediate impact with each student. The 5th grade MSP data is immediately provided to Chief Kanim teachers to begin planning for 6th grade. Science is also another area where almost all of the 5th grade students are meeting standard except for a handful of students. 71% are also exceeding standard in Science.

Dan is proud of the kids and the teachers, it is great to see so many students meeting and exceeding standards. The 4th and 5th grade students had computer based tests this school year which was an additional challenge and they still did very well

Fall City Elementary was the only elementary school to improve in every tested area. In the Snoqualmie Valley School District all schools went down in reading except for Fall City Elementary and 3rd grade

reading even increased by 12%. Where other schools are leveling off, Fall City Elementary is finding ways to improve. Literacy for Life has helped a lot in improving standards in reading.

Teacher's Report: Amy Jones: Literacy for Life/Reading buddies

Co chairs-Lori Cobb and Suzanne Glennon

The DIBELS testing helps identify where students need additional reading support. This testing flagged 25% of first graders in need of reading support last year. By mid year, it dropped from 25% to 8% with the help of Reading buddies which was the lowest in the Snoqualmie Valley School District.

Amy asked parents to sign up to be an amazing reading buddy to assist a child in need of additional reading support. Team up with the Literacy Circle and be a buddy and encourage, listen, and help students with reading comprehension. We appreciate any time a parent can give. A half an hour helps a lot. The families of these students appreciate the help and the kids love it! Training for Reading Buddies will be on September 20th, 2012 from 6:00-7:30pm. More information is also available on the PTSA website. Amy ended her report with "We love you PTSA!" From all the teachers and staff.

Legislative: Julie Luttinen

February 15th, 2012 a new bond was delayed. April or May of 2013 will be next opportunity for a bond. No other information is known at this time.

District Board meetings are every other Thursday and all meetings are open to the public. Come voice concerns and ask questions. Agendas are posted the Tuesday prior to Thursday meetings. A webcast is also available for people with young children. More details can be located on the district website. All meetings are in Snoqualmie at the district office headquarters. Working sessions do not allow for questions but are open to the public.

Membership: Kirsten Patterson, Dana Packard, and Guest speaker Caroline Brown (Region 2 Membership chair)

Kirsten Patterson:

Kirsten explained the hierarchy of the PTA; state, council, local. Council and state are great resources for the local PTA units. Council helps with bringing in guest speakers that are interesting and relevant to the entire district. Council has a membership chair open. Talk to Kirsten after tonight's meeting or contact the council president. Information is on the council website.

Dana Packard:

Membership forms are available tonight. The form is also available on the PTSA website. Returning parents must renew membership every year. Membership gets student information into the School directory. This is a valuable resource for student play date connections, the school is not allowed to give this information out. Turn the form in by September 21st for school directory inclusion. Membership gives every member a voice and vote, it does not require you to volunteer. Sophie Harris added that parents can also pay to sponsor a staff member. Membership forms will be going home with students on Thursday, September 13th.

Caroline Brown-Guest Speaker

Congratulations to the Fall City Elementary PTA , you are one of few that has increased its membership. Caroline said that many local PTA units are either status quo or decreasing in memberships. And at that rate, incoming Kindergartners will not have a PTA. There has never been a 100% membership in the SVSD. Last year Fall City increased its membership from the prior year from 458 members to 518 members. There are 19 schools with 100% membership in Washington state and 17 of those are in Region 2. Caroline offered Fall City Elementary a challenge. The challenge is to get 100% membership for the school and 100% membership for the staff. Apply for those 2 awards. Carry membership forms around with you and get people you interact with on a daily basis to join your school's PTA. Add a check box on the membership form for families to sponsor another family. This is easy!

Anyone with a heartbeat and an interest in a child can be a member of the PTA. This includes neighbors, babysitters, etc.... An individual membership is \$13 dollars. There are several ways for an individual to get the \$13 back for being a PTSA member. 20% off on a Hertz rental car, \$10 off at Office Depot. Sophie Harris added that a family membership is for 2 members and 2 votes.

There are 10 Reasons to join PTSA: 1) Good for your child 2) Important to the school 3) Get connected 4) Support in helping raise your kids 5) fun and helpful 6) you are a role model 7) you make a difference 8) raise money 9) flexible 10) it's for every parent

PTA was founded on the principals of advocacy , so Legislation is important!

Fundraising Goals for 2012/2013: Kirsten Patterson

The PTSA supports a number of academic enrichment programs at Fall City Elementary. The PTSA's annual fundraising goal this year is \$66,000. A letter will be going home with students on September 13th. If we can raise \$66K this year, the PTSA will not have do any other fundraisers the rest of the school year. New this year, the online giving tool is allowing for recurring donations to ease family budgets. This can be done through 6/1/2013. Walk-A-Thon is are primary fundraiser of the year and it is our expectation that we will meet our annual fundraising goal.

Dan added that the budget has been cut by 48% at Fall City Elementary over the last 4-5 years. Where PTSA used to fund the extras, now PTSA is funding critical academic programs. With the school budget cuts, it is difficult to cover recess with staff and half of the librarian's time this school year is going to support 3rd grade teachers who each have 30 students. It is becoming harder everyday and PTSA is having to fund more of the necessities versus the nice to haves.. Our kids deserve these academic programs and Fall City Elementary and the PTSA's goals are aligned. We want to do what is best for the kids but it gets harder every year. All of the school districts are dealing with budget cuts. We need to prepare the kids for the job market and for jobs not yet created.

Committee Reports:

Walk-A-Thon: Sophie Harris

The Walk-A-Thon team is very enthusiastic and is hopeful that the Walk-A-Thon goal will be surpassed and meet the annual fundraising goal. Walk-A-Thon is the PTSA's primary fundraising event and the goal is \$52,000 this year which is 80% of overall fundraising goal. All parents are invited to come join in the fun and participate. Walk-A-Thon envelopes are going home on Thursday, September 13th. Envelopes for afternoon Kindergarten will go home on Friday. All donations are due by October 12, 2012. This gives extra time to get per lap pledges in. Volunteer tonight or send email to Nina Ramsey to volunteer,

there are many ways to help. Nina can direct you to the new online Volunteer tool. An assembly for Walk-A-Thon will be held on October 19th, 2012. It will be fun and awards will be given out.

Volunteer Opportunities: Joanne Haberman

- Tanya Alter volunteered tonight to do Spaghetti Dinner on November 6th.
- Legislative chair is still open-approximately 2 hrs a month. Go to district meetings and report back. October 19th and 20th is Legislative assembly.
- Raffle chair-TBD depending on fundraising donations
- Membership-co-chairs- Dana received 4 volunteers to contact
- Walk-A-Thon communications shadow –Tracey Kellams is doing it this year but will not be doing it next year and would like a shadow
- Using sign up genius to track volunteers –go to sign up genius and search on “Fcesvolunteers@yahoo.com. This will bring up a list of events available to sign up for at Fall City Elementary. Close to 50% of Walk-A-Thon volunteers have been filled so far.
- No Effort Fundraising-Nina Ramsey is chairing but would like a co-chair.
- Reading Buddies: Lori Cobb and Suzanne Glennon are looking for a shadow to do it next year.

Treasurer’s Report: Chris Williams

Knocked \$3,000 off of June 2012 budget

Kirsten moved to approve the September proposed budget. Jennifer Gehring seconded it. Budget approved for September 2012.

Upcoming Dates:

September 12:

10:50 a.m.: New Volunteer Orientation
Sahara Pizza Night- \$3 goes back to FCES for you order

September 13 & 14:

13th-Individual Picture Day (AM-Kindergarten, Grades 1-4)
14th-Individual Picture Day (All day Kindergarten, PM Kindergarten, Grade 5)

September 18:

Curriculum Night, Grades 1-5

September 20th

Reading Buddy Training 6-7:30 p.m. Room 27

September 25th:

2:20 pm. : New Volunteer Orientation

October 2nd:

10:30 a.m.: Board Meeting, MPR

October 4th:

11:30 a.m.: All School BBQ
1:00 p.m.: Walk-A-Thon

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned @ 8:20pm.