

# FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTSA 2.18.15

## General Meeting Minutes November 13, 2012

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2012 General Membership Meeting:

Joanne Haberman moved to approve. Julie Luttinen seconded. Minutes approved.

Principal's Report/Teachers Report: Dan Schlotfeldt and Colleen Myers

### Teacher Evaluations:

Dan began by explaining that the Teacher Evaluation process is based on the Instructional 5 Framework; Assessment, Purpose, Rigor, Student Engagement, and Relationships. Colleen added that teachers go into the evaluation as a review of what they are doing which is a different spin from someone telling you what you aren't doing. Principals have been doing instructional rounds which are observing classrooms. Now teachers are being added to these rounds as well so they can see what other teachers are doing and hopefully be able to take something away from that experience. A debrief is done after these rounds and they are non-evaluative. The reviewer states what they noticed or asks a question. All districts do this.

A lot of work and time go into the teacher evaluations (approximately 12 hours per staff member). The SVSD chose the Robert Marzano model from 3 different models the common core standards could fit in; Robert Marzano's model (teacher growth based model), Danielson (runner up), and CEL's (University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership). All of the models have to meet the same 8 criteria and Rubric (Unsatisfactory, Basic, Proficient, and Distinguished).

Some examples of how the Teacher evaluation model is being put into place in the classroom:

- ✓ Student Learning Targets: "I can", the learning target is put into a positive manner. Kids get caught up in the engagement and participation. Teachers should have a goal for what they are teaching. Students have to come back to the learning target/goal to give their feedback on where they are on the target. And the teacher has to ask themselves if the students understood what they wanted them to take away from the lesson. If they didn't, the teacher needs to figure out how they are going to address that.
- ✓ Student engagement: Teachers put the challenge back on the kids (i.e. Why did you do that?). This is so kids do not get stuck in quadrants. Every student moves around quadrants during the day.
- ✓ Rigor: Math facts (remembering) and problem solving (creating) are good examples of rigor. This is a balancing act for teachers with varying levels between students. Composing and assembling; rigor moves from bottom to top. There is a higher order of thinking with the new common core standards. Teachers are also trying to be on the same scale with the new common core standards. 46 states are now working towards the same standards. Reading and comprehension are very important for students to be proficient in because they have to be able to read in order to understand and comprehend the problem to get the answer.

Mr. S. concluded with asking for feedback on other topics that parents are interested in and to send them to him or the PTSA Executive Team.

Membership Update: Dana Packard

100% Teacher & Staff Membership has been achieved. The application for the 100% teacher award was submitted today to the WSPTA.

The PTSA currently has 84% PTSA Membership. Dana is working on an outreach to families that haven't joined PTSA before due to language barrier or membership fee. Dana is working with counselor Kelly to get a list of families who may be interested in joining PTSA using available scholarship funds. Dana had 1 offer to join the night of Spaghetti dinner using scholarship funds. Additionally, an email will be sent out soon to families that were PTSA members last year but who have not renewed their membership this year. There are approximately 71 individuals that fall in this category.

President's Report: Kirsten Patterson

Fundraising Update: We have currently raised \$64,000 including matching dollars. The matching donations doubled from last year.

Fundraising parent letter: Kirsten thanked Chris Williams and Karen Nieman for their work on the Fundraising letter.

WAT Team: Kirsten thanked Jerrie Crook and Sophie Harris and the rest of the WAT team for all their work on the Walk-A-Thon.

Follow up parent letter: A letter went home with students today notifying parents of the fundraising status and informing them that the PTSA will be sending out a survey to gather feedback on the fundraising plans to date and a family event in the spring.

Parent Survey The first of 2 surveys this school year will be going out the week of November 26<sup>th</sup>. The second survey will be going out in February. The first survey will include some questions on the fundraising letter and matching donations and a question on doing Raffle this school year as well as the type of family event FCES families would like to see the PTSA do in the spring. The second survey will go out in February and will be focused on gathering information from parents to help the PTSA plan for next school year.

Financial Review update: The 2011-2012 financial review was completed by Kelly Faccone on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The books were in good shape. Thank You Kelly Faccone! Kelly is a CPA and completed the review free of charge to the PTSA.

Review of goals for 2012-13 school year:

Kirsten explained that the executive team met in late August 2012 and put together a list of goals for the school year. Then Kirsten went over a few of the goals the PTSA has accomplished so far this school year. These included:

- ✓ 100% teacher and staff membership achieved and award filed with WSPTA.
- ✓ Increased communications to parents on fundraising with the fundraising letter and fundraising follow up letter, pie chart, and programs PTSA funds.
- ✓ No Effort Fundraising: partnered with Amazon.com to receive between 4-8% on all purchases made using the FCES direct link. Sophie Harris and Stephanie Potter said they tried it but weren't sure they had the right link. They both suggested that the tag id be communicated to parents so they know how to identify whether they have the right link.
- ✓ No Effort Fundraising: The PTSA partnered with Ram Dutt, a parent at FCES, on using the Meylah Online Marketplace. The marketplace focuses on local businesses in the Fall City and Redmond area. So far no businesses are signed up yet.
- ✓ PTSA Website: A new platform for our website is being trialed at no extra cost with "Our School Pages". This website has a lot of advantages and the functionality is focused on making the tasks and responsibilities of PTA's easier. The current plan is to go live with this new website in late January 2013. This will be dependent on how well the remainder of the testing process goes.

Sophie Harris asked when we will be voting in the Nominating committee. Kirsten explained this will be done at the January General meeting. Sophie said this has typically been done in November.

## Committee Reports:

### Book Fair and Food Drive: Joanne Haberman

\$16,000 in sales were transacted this year. \$8000 in free books were given away. Not all kids with scholarships used them. Joanne said that the committee will need to come up with some ideas to get kids to come in and use the scholarships next year. The buy 2 get 1 free offer was a success and will be continued next year. The estimation game was a big hit with the students this year. The winners have been identified and the prize is a poster. The student that was the closest gets their first choice of a poster. The teacher bags worked really well. It was a lot easier for the teachers to pick out books they wanted and put them in the bag vs. writing it on a piece of paper. There was a lot of positive feedback from teachers and parents on the teacher bags. The students loved that Clifford was present and they got to meet him. Clifford encouraged kids to read and write. There was a slight increase in sales by having the fair on Tuesday vs. Thursday night. Mr. S. Said this was probably a combination of events. Also having the fair on Tuesday allows the committee to restock for the last couple of days of the book fair which could have resulted in additional sales. "What is the price cheat sheet" worked well for the students to figure out how much a book was with tax included. A big Thank you to Betty and Mr. S. And a "Huge" thanks to Stephanie Potter, Joanne's co-chair. Lastly God Bless Connie's Book Fair Procedure notebook.

### Build and Share Food Drive: Joanne Haberman

The food from the food drive will stay in the Fall City area . Stephanie Potter suggested that it would be nice to be able to figure out how much food taken in will equate to the number of families we are helping to feed. There is a cash and food donation option. Cash goes further than the food supply. Joanne said that it is hard for the teachers to deal with the cash. The new PTSA website will have functionality to handle online payments for this next year.

### Spaghetti Dinner and Student Directory-Julie Luttinen

Thank you Mr. S and the Executive team for helping. It was a great night with a wonderful turn out. Thank you Betty and Kelly, custodian staff. And Dixie and Janet, kitchen staff for all your help. Tanya Alter, chair, did a fabulous job! Tanya worked really hard on the dinner and has some good advice for next year. Tanya will be putting together a procedure notebook for next year. Sophie Harris suggested that it would be nice to have a list of items that are available in the cabinets so it is known what is still needed. Julie said she conducted an inventory of items from the cabinets this year.

### Student Directory-Julie Luttinen

Thank you Sophie Harris, Dana Packard, and Carrie Ahlstrom for all their hard work on the directory this year. The directory will be going out this Friday November 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Legislative: Julie Luttinen

The top 5 picks from Legislative Assembly were:

- #1-Advance Education Reform: revamp curriculum-relates to change of common core standard-student achievement, funding, career readiness.
- #2-Fund Education First: Washington must make education funding it's top legislative priority.
- #3-Closing the Opportunity Gaps: ensures the educational system serves all our kids equally.
- #4-Revenue for Kids: provide alternative, long-term and sustainable funding that is needed to cover the costs of K-12 education and child-related programs.
- #5-Access To Highly Qualified Teachers: including teacher incentives, mentoring and ongoing professional development for purposes of recruitment, training and retaining teachers in hard-to-place areas and economically disadvantaged communities.

Stephanie Potter asked "How do the recommendations work, what does pass and neutral mean?" Julie responded that pass and neutral are the WSPTA Legislative Board's stand on the items up for vote. There are two different groups that vote on the items and the second group overruled the WSPTA Board vote. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, there will be a lobby on these 5 platforms.

Cathy Renner was awarded Advocate of the year. There is still an opening for a Legislative chair if anyone is interested, let Julie know.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Williams

Walk-A-Thon: \$63,909 is the current total for WAT. \$47,000 of this amount has been received and is in the bank. The remaining cash to be received is matching dollars and should be received by late December or early January. Chris has been maintaining and updating the WAT spreadsheet as dollars come in so we have it for future data.

Bank Balance: \$86,000

Restricted funds (Cash): \$1307.66. This is for the Reading Buddy Grant of \$2950 that was received from Lowes last year. \$1642.34 was expensed last year leaving a balance of \$1307.66 in cash.

Focus on Education: Dan Schlotfeldt

This will occur on November 29<sup>th</sup> at FCES. This is a state wide program. The goal is to get people into schools that are normally not in schools to watch teaching happening. Last year Twin Falls brought in 25 professionals (i.e. Mayors and people of power) that aren't typically in schools. FCES is inviting 35 community members.

Adjourn Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

November 16<sup>th</sup>: Reflections Student entries due

November 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: Conferences-Early release 11:55am, No half day Kindergarten

November 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>: Thanksgiving Holiday, No school

November 27<sup>th</sup>-December 14<sup>th</sup>: Build and Share Food Drive

November 29<sup>th</sup>: Focus on Education

December 4<sup>th</sup>: PTSA Board Meeting, 10:00am, MPR

December 5<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Concert

December 20-January 1<sup>st</sup>: Winter Break-No School

January 2: Classes resume, back to school

January 11<sup>th</sup>: Parent Play Day

January 15<sup>th</sup>: PTSA General Meeting, 2 p.m.