

FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTSA 2.18.15

General Meeting Minutes

January 15th, 2013

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2012 General PTSA Meeting

Sophie Harris moved to approve. Stephanie Potter seconded. Minutes approved.

Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speaker: Kirsten Patterson

Kirsten began with welcoming all the attendees and asked how many of the attendees liked the 2:00 p.m. time for the meeting. From the raise of hands, about 75% of the attendees liked the 2:00 p.m. time. Kirsten introduced Principal Dunckel and turned the meeting over to him to speak.

Special Guest Speaker: Principal Dunckel, Chief Kanim Middle School

TOPIC: "Plans for moving from three middle schools to two and preparing elementary students for middle school." Principal Dunckel's portion of the meeting was audio recorded for those who could not attend.

Principal Dunckel:

Principal Dunckel began by thanking everyone for coming and asking how many attendees will have a child in middle school for the first time. Principal Dunckel has been at Chief Kanim for 14 years and 12 of those years as Principal. He knows the school very well and is proud of the school and where it is today and where it is going to go in years to come. He plans on staying put so parents should see a lot of consistency in the three years their children will be attending Chief Kanim. This year Chief Kanim has 445 kids. Over the last four years the school has had about 350 and slowly grown from there. Chief Kanim was at 710 students before Twin Falls opened up. Principal Dunckel said it was a good school and they had good teachers and they had good scores then too. Snoqualmie Middle School will be split between two schools next year; Twin Falls and Chief Kanim. This will result in an increase of students at Chief Kanim by about 300 kids for a total student population of about 730 next year. The staff that is at Snoqualmie Middle School will be following the students and additional staff will be needed to assume the increased student population. The staffing arrangements in terms of which teachers go to the two different schools is still being decided. The goal is to have the staffing figured out by February 1st. The plans are to have eight teachers at each grade level which is an increase from four at each grade level today. There will be a teaming model put in place with the larger size of students. The teachers will have 2 prep periods; one individual and one team session during the two student exploratory classes. Principal Dunckel's goal is to minimize the number of kids in the hallway at the same time during transitions from classes. A few things will be changing to absorb the larger group of students but Principal Dunckel feels fortunate that Chief Kanim has had prior experience with managing a big group of students before. There will be 3 portables added next year to assume the additional 300 plus students. Transitions will be something new for the incoming students. The students will have two to three different core teachers for math, science, social studies, and language arts. And they will have exploratory options depending on their interests each trimester. Some of the exploratory classes include: band, health, choir, PE, and STEM. Part of the student's day will be different and each student will have their own locker. There will be enough lockers for everyone, students will not have to share. In the spring, parents and incoming students can come to the school and walk the school and see where all the rooms are in the school. Principal

Dunckel said that he will show them everything they need to know. This gives students an experience so they know what they are coming to in the fall.

Before school starts all of the 6th graders come early to get their schedules and tour the school to make sure they know exactly where they are going on their first day. There is also a welcome BBQ. The school is open to all parents and students anytime. Principal Dunckel encouraged parents and their kids to come see the school. He can be reached by email or phone to set up an appointment. In the summer, the school is open two weeks prior to the start of school. Principal Dunckel ended with stating that the school staff and I are there to help parents and students make the transition.

Questions?

Question 1: What are advanced classes like?

All 5th graders will take an Algebra placement test. This test along with their 4th grade and 5th grade MSP scores will be used to place them in the appropriate math class. The students will also be taking a math assessment test 2 times a year. Next year Chief Kanim will have Geometry in 8th grade for first time. Incoming 6th graders will start out taking Pre-Algebra, then in 7th grade they will take Algebra and in 8th grade they will take Geometry. There is also an advanced placement class for Language arts. Right now Chief Kanim has a blended program between AP classes and the standard track. A lot of this information will be shared with parents on curriculum night. Parents will know their child's placement when school starts and the school has a lot of data to share if parents want to see how their child was placed. Many times the school will over place kids in a higher level class if warranted and if the student can keep up with the work. The teachers and staff will make adjustments for students up and down as needed. If a student is feeling overwhelmed with the work then the student will be moved to a more appropriate class.

Question 2: Do the buses drop off kids before the school is open?

The doors to the school and the commons area open at 7:10 and first period begins at 7:45am. Supervising kids that arrive prior to first period between 7:10am and 7:45am is a challenge. Principal Duckel's goal is to have kids arrive closer to when the classes start and with the new number of kids the commons area will be very crowded. The bell times may have to be adjusted if it becomes too hard to supervise.

Question 3: Do the students have a home room class?

No, students will not have a home room. Each student has a first period and this will not necessarily be the parents go to person for questions. Every parent will have the ability to check each of their child's teacher's sharepoint site where they can check the class schedule and family access to check grades and assignments. Questions will have to be directed to each individual teacher. Every teacher's email address and phone number will be available on the school website and email works well with the staff.

Principal Dunckel also said that the teachers and staff keep a good pulse on each student's progress. For the past 8 years they have had the homework lunch program. This program has really helped elevate student GPA's and one of the reasons is that they do not allow kids to get a zero on their assignments. All students have to turn in all of their assignments. The only social time the students have is during lunch and there are no recesses. If a student is missing an assignment then the teacher will put them on the homework lunch list and that student will then get called at lunch to do the assignment during lunch. A student that turns in an assignment late may not receive a 100% on the assignment but is better than a zero when all of the assignments are averaged together. There is a penalty for turning in assignments late. This program teaches kids responsibility and that they can't blow things off without a penalty. It teaches them good life lessons. The counselor oversees the work coming in through this program and knows the level and quality that needs to be done. If a student rushes through the assignment and it is not at the level it should be done, the student comes back the next day. If the same kids are being seen over

and over again in this program, then a parent meeting will be called. This program tracks the students and can identify if the student is being lazy or if they are really having trouble with the work. There are no surprises, parents will know right away what is required to get caught up. It is a great program and the kids and teachers have both bought into it.

There are 6 periods during the day; 4 core and 2 exploratory. Every Monday through Thursday for a half hour at the end of the day there is a 7th period of intervention and enrichment. There is no 7th period on Fridays. Students that didn't meet the standard for MSP scores in math and reading are helped during 7th period in these two areas. This new 7th period has been going on for 2 years and 70% of the students passed that didn't pass the year before. This is why Chief Kanim's MSP scores are in the high 80's and 90's. The teachers and staff are really working with the students that are struggling. Additionally, there are enrichment classes for the students who need extra help in their advanced classes; reading, math, language. The students that scored the highest in writing on the MSP create and publish a quarterly magazine. French and Spanish language classes are also offered on a rotation basis for 8th graders.

Question 4: What do parent volunteers do and with the higher number of incoming students, where do you need the help the most?

Contrary to what parents may have heard, the school needs and wants parents in the school. With continuing budget cuts, there is a big need for help in the school library. There are also opportunities for volunteers to help with picture days, the welcome BBQ, school carnival, and Hawkathon. Some teachers will ask for help with dances, field trips, and class room help. There are a lot of ways to get involved. As the number of students increase, the school library is where the biggest need will be. Principal Dunckel will not know the staffing for next year until the Spring, it will depend on the budget.

Question 5: Will there be more sports offered to 6th graders?

Chief Kanim is in a league that only has a certain number of schools doing the same extra-curricular activities. Therefore, there are only a certain number of sports that can be offered. Currently Chief Kanim has cross country, boys wrestling, girls soccer, track, drama and a lot of clubs. There is a new STEM club targeting girls, ski club, math club, art club, community service club, and a pom-pom club. There are a lot of after school programs and there is an activity bus if students stay after school they can get a free ride to certain areas. The activity bus has specific targeted areas such as Mount Si and Cascade View Elementary. The activity bus does not go to neighborhoods. The activity bus stopped going towards the Redmond area. Students have to be picked up at Chief Kanim if they live in the Redmond area.

Question 6: Do students who do Music, Choir, and Band get the same options for exploratory classes?

If a student signs up for Music, Band, or Choir it is for the entire year. Principal Dunckel mentioned that the school is trying to make shorter snippets for exploratory classes to allow these kids to have experience in other kinds of exploratory classes other than health and PE. In March more information will go out to parents on exploratory subjects.

Principal Dunckel encouraged parents to email any further questions to him or Mr. S. and also recommended parents subscribe to Chief Kanims' Friday newsletter. Chief Kanim is having a school carnival on Friday, January 18th from 6-8pm and encouraged parents and students to come check out the school.

Fran Ellul mentioned that there will also be a transition meeting on January 31st, at 6:30pm at Chief Kanim.

Principal's Report: Dan Schlotfeldt

Mr. S. started out by saying that the communication between Chief Kanim and FCES is very strong and it helps with the transition from elementary to middle school. Mr. S. feels very comfortable sending FCES students to Chief Kanim.

Safety at school:

Unfortunately safety is something that all schools deal with now. Two years ago all the schools received a grant on school safety for floods, earthquakes etc... What it came down to was mapping out what to do in the event of one of these occurrences. There were discussions with the Sheriff, State Patrol, and Fire department. The schools plan has been sent in for review.

Question 1: What could the school do better?

It is a lengthy process and even with all of the law enforcement people in the room it is hard to get them to answer what should be done. It would be nice through out the valley to have one consistent plan. Schools were not built to keep people out. There is only so much the school can do. It doesn't mean that the school doesn't pay attention, it just means that the school can do their best and continue to look for improvements.

Question 2: What can parents do?

Sign in the office when entering the building. If you see something strange, let Mr. S or someone in the office know. A lock down drill was practiced by the entire school last Friday. This causes anxiety with the kids. It is not comfortable and some things were learned from that process but it went well for the most part. Parent feedback is welcomed on how the school can do better and recommendations are welcomed. There are a lot of things the school is barred from doing due to funding. Teachers have to lock rooms from the outside which can be difficult. Mr. S was told a couple years ago it was \$100k to rekey the building. Deadbolts are not allowed due to fire hazard.

Question 3: Could there be fundraising? How can parents help?

Mr. S. said, this is your PTSA if this is something you are passionate about the PTSA can focus fundraising for it specifically.

Comment 1:

Parents have to sign in but no one is there to monitor who is signing in. In order to get the green volunteer sticker, you have to go into the office. Anyone can walk in the building and go anywhere without signing in. There is no one monitoring the door. Mr. S replied that this has been discussed and Jennie sits in back of the sign in window and sees people coming in the door. However, Jennie is not there all of the time so yes it is true and great feedback. The front door is the school's biggest issue.

Question 4: Could the school get volunteers to man the front door?

Maybe if there are enough volunteers who want to do this.

Question 5: Are the portables locked?

The school was instructed not to lock them. The portables lock from inside unlike the school doors. Mr. S. said that some teachers in the portables gave it try to lock the door during the school day and the feedback from those teachers was that it was too difficult to manage.

President's Report: Kirsten Patterson

- Review Parent Survey results:

The first PTSA survey was sent out on November 26th, 2012. A second survey from the PTSA to parents will be sent out in the spring to help the Executive team plan for next school year. The Executive team welcomes

feedback on the committees and encourages everyone to fill out the survey. If school safety is a big concern, we can do more and see what is feasible.

Kirsten reviewed the results of the first 2 questions on the November survey as well as the question on having Raffle this school year. Based on the survey results, there will be a Raffle night this year. A committee chair is needed for Raffle Night if anyone is interested.

- Vote on goals for 2012-13 school year-Best Practices Award:
Kirsten gave the background on how the Executive team came up with goals for this school year and then put the goals to vote. Michelle Madani motioned to approve the goals. Jennifer Gehring seconded. All "Ayes", motion is affirmed. Questions on the goals can be directed to any Executive team member.
- Election and approval of the 2012-2013 Nominating Committee:
Kirsten Patterson began by reading section 5a from the bylaws to make sure all attendees understood the process for electing a nominating committee. Kirsten then opened the floor to nominations for 3 committee members.
 1. Nina Ramsey nominated Kara Popp. Kara Popp was not present and Nina Ramsey confirmed that Kara Popp gave her consent and acceptance to Nina by phone. Kirsten asked the members if there was any opposition to the nomination. There were no oppositions.
 2. Julie Luttinen nominated Tanya Alter. Tanya Alter was present and accepted. There were no oppositions to this nomination.
 3. Karen Nieman read from a note signed by Diane Tatum (1st grade teacher). Diane Tatum nominated Michelle Ingalls. Michelle Ingalls was present and accepted. There were no oppositions to this nomination.

Kirsten asked for further nominations from the floor. There were none. Kirsten declared the nominations for committee members closed. Kara Popp, Tanya Alter, and Michelle Ingalls were nominated for the 3 committee members, with no oppositions.

Kirsten Patterson then opened the floor to nominate 2 alternates. Kirsten explained that the elected alternates will attend nominating committee meetings in the event a committee member cannot attend a set meeting. The alternate would be called to serve and would replace the committee member moving forward.

1. Joanne Haberman nominated Stephanie Potter. Stephanie Potter was present and accepted. There were no oppositions to this nomination.
2. Julie Luttinen nominated Dena Gravestock. Dena Gravestock was present and accepted. There were no oppositions to this nomination.

Kirsten asked for further nominations from the floor. There were none. Kirsten declared the nominations closed. Stephanie Potter and Dena Gravestock were nominated to serve as the 2 alternates for the Nominating Committee, with no oppositions.

Kirsten ended by thanking the new Nominating Committee for their willingness to serve and asked them to meet her for a few moments following the meeting to get information.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Williams

- Current P&L & Bank Balances

Chris began by letting everyone know a copy of the January 15th, 2013 P&L and bank balances were available at the sign in table. If anyone has any questions to let him know. Then he continued with updating everyone with the current bank balance of \$54,963.29. This number includes both checking and savings balances.

Question 1:

How is the Amazon fundraising going?

Nina Ramsey replied that it is going well and the PTSA has raised \$600 so far. The link is in the HLN every week. Keep using it! Chris added that the PTSA also raised a little over \$800 for the Turkey trot and \$1200 for box tops

Question 2:

How much money does the PTSA get from Target debit cards?

Mr. S said that this money goes directly to the school and is paid quarterly and estimated that the school receives approximately \$1500 a year.

Upcoming Events:

January 21st:

Martin Luther King Day-No School

January 24th:

SVSD Board Meeting, 6:30pm

January 28th:

Reflections Participant Reception, Snoqualmie Valley YMCA 5:30-6:30pm

January 29th:

3rd Grade Music Concert, 6:30pm

February 5th:

Board Meeting, 10am-MPR

February 5th:

5th Grade Band Concert, 6:30pm

February 12th:

5th Grade Music Concert, 6:30pm

February 14th:

SVSD Board Meeting, 6:30pm

February 15th:

Parent Play Day

February 18th-22nd

Mid Winter Break-No School

Adjourn Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 3:11p.m.