

PTO meeting 10/9
6:30pm in the McCornack Library

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Kuhl, Jason Schanze, Sandra Epple, Karen Olsen, Heather Friesen, Jessica Buhler, Yuli Martinez, Telessa Cuddeback, Lynn Kane, Beth Schrand, Bryan Kane, Regina Ligon, Cheryl Konold, Lauren Whan, Jennifer McCormick, Londa Rocholz, Amy Thomas, Aaron Friesen, Heather Friesen, Jennifer Kirkwood, Jen Davis, Dana Brummett, Judy Newman visiting from schoolboard, Sophia Durant, Ellen Cabeza, Kelly Medina, Octaviana Aveleira, Sophia Bennett, Kaydee Hash, Jennifer Hewett, Liz Price, Thomas Price, Julie LaFaver and Jessica Marquez. In order to break the ice and start off on the right foot, the AVID teachers led us in a "nameplate activity" where we got to know each other, and on the back, share with the teachers what we hope to learn about at future PTO meetings.

AVID team: We learned that our 3rd-5th grade teachers, Londa and Barb Willoughby got to go to Seattle for a leadership meeting to learn about using AVID this summer. AVID works with schools to provide high quality training and create academic success. It looks different at middle/high school level, but having the consistency throughout the grades helps ease fears of going to middle school. What the teachers use in class is a "stand, share, sit" approach, which lets the students move, share, and also shows the teachers who's shared! AVID right now is offered from 3rd-5th grades, but it will start to implement in lower grades soon. This year the focus is on helping kids to be organized! The goal is for students to get intrinsically motivated, and take charge of their learning. To empower the belief that they can succeed. For the teachers, there's a lot of bettering for them as well. In later PTO Meetings, the teachers will be implementing other AVID strategies for us to learn!

Bond Measure: We heard from Judy Newman from the school board and she was here to discuss, "why do we have a school bond?" The school board has been examining the state of our buildings, and what they need for the last 18 months. Their findings are available to view online. It was decided that we have about \$1 billion of need. Judy explained that bond measures come out of property taxes. By passing the bond we can take care of the things the buildings need, without taking the money from other operating budgets. The bond is broken up into 4 main categories: 1) Maintenance- every school in our region is in need of roofing, cameras, one way in, etc., 2) Safety improvements, and 3) Earthquake Updates. 4) Edison, Camas Ridge and North Eugene Highschool will be rebuilt! The ones that are on the list for repairs are from the 20's-50's. An expansion at Gilham is also part of the bond because that area is growing the fastest, and this would reduce overcrowded classrooms. Judy states that an indirect benefit of improvements is an overall better environment to learn which helps with better education. Churchill will be expanding into more classes with a focus on vocational options in health, construction, technology, career training, etc. There are studies that show if students see how their education translates to work, there is a much higher graduation rate. The measure is set for a \$319.3 million bond. There will be opportunities to get involved in spreading the word, through organized canvassing, you can sign up at <http://www.yesfor4jschools.com>. Amy Thomas had a question for Judy, she wanted to know if a pool for Churchill might be part of the bond? Judy explained that Churchill is on the bond for additional athletic support, but she had not heard about a potential community center and pool. She did say that this measure is not set in stone and is open to discussion with neighborhood input. You can write to: board@4j.lane.edu

Title 1 Presentation: Jen Kirkwood is our Title 1 coordinator. She came to explain what Title 1 does. She said that Title 1 is a federally funded program that helps kids who are struggling with reading and math. It is integral that parents be a part of the process and work with the Title 1 staff. There are many ways to get involved: reading with your kids, playing math games, coming to events sponsored by Title1, checking take home folders. The 4j policy for Title 1 is on the website. It will be getting an update at site council in November. Ellen asked what do the students that need the extra help miss during class time? Jen explained that Title 1 help is built into the day so it is generally during the times they would already be working on small group reading and math. Instead of being in class, they get smaller group, more concentrated help. She also reminded us that the Title1 event is next week during the book fair, and will include dinner, and story telling!

Principal Report: McCornack welcomes you! We want that to be what you and your child feel when you are at school. When that doesn't happen- it's fine to let us know. Londa shared that her mom had told her, after she was grown that she wished she had checked in more with the school and advocated for her children. It's welcomed by the teachers and staff for parents to check in and talk when they have questions or concerns. Londa said that we have 341 students, 12 classrooms, 40+ staff and countless volunteers- which makes us a really rich community. When Londa was thinking about what she needs from us parents and students, her answer right now is that she needs us to be on time. She wants to partner with us because the research shows that a student with 10% absences is less likely to graduate from high school. Londa and all staff can put incentives in place to help families achieve timeliness. One example is a bead merit system with Cheryle for kids needing that extra bit of check in.

Upcoming Events: Sandra with book fair said that a volunteer list has already been started, but she needs help with backup. There's an online volunteer list. She shared that you can shop online from the 10th-22nd. The link is on the McCornack website--tell your friends and family! She said that it's user friendly. We are in need of volunteers during the Title 1 night. She also explained what the jobs to do would be: monitoring the door, helping make students wish lists, games and drawings, buying books, etc. Amy was curious with online shopping how do we get the books? Regina explained that they are shipped free to the school and the students take them home.

NEXT PTO MEETING: [November 13](#), 6-7pm. We meet the [2nd Tuesday](#) of the month-the next one is our ways and means meeting! All parents and teachers have a chance to vote on where all our hard-earned fundraising money goes, which makes us pretty unique for an elementary school. Aaron is our ways and means chair and he said to please come and vote, and if you have a request on where the money is spent, even parents can submit proposals.