

Ways and Means Spring Meeting, March 19, 2019

In attendance:

Lynn Kane, Jason Schanze, Regina Ligon, Jen Kirkwood, Kelly Medina, Ellen Cabeza, Beth Schrand, Maren LaRoche, Kate Aly, Cheryle Konold, Dustin LaRoche, Jennifer Heuett, Mary Kuhl, Yuli Martinez, Jessica Buhler, Aaron Friesen, Heather Friesen, Cat Tomlin, Bryan Kane

Kate Aly with Kid Food Matters gave an update on what has happened since our last meeting. The school board voted that starting July 1st 4J will be moving to a self-operated system, and will no longer renew their contract with Sodexo. She says we are not expecting a huge change this next year, but as we progress we are wanting to move to serving more local food and teaming up with community partners. Kate suggested we email the board to thank them, and in that platform we can offer up our suggestions for what types of healthier lunches and breakfasts we'd like to see. This next year will be more about a numbers game to show viability and sustainability, and that we actually don't need corporate help to keep costs within the budget. Village school is an example of healthy choices within the menu and what we're hoping to have district wide. Lynn wanted to know if parents will have a say regarding their school's specific menu, or if it will be school board run? Kate explained that this is all in the works, and we are not sure yet, but that Kid food matters wants to make sure that everyone, not just the vocal parents' kids will get the good, healthy choices. Kid Food Matters website/facebook will keep us updated on what is changing. Kate has offered to reach out and tell us when something new is on the horizon as well.

Upcoming Events: Lynn mentioned that we will be doing a bottles and cans roundup for Earth Day with all proceeds going to the library ("bottles for books") and offsetting what we couldn't give to the library that they had requested in the ways and means. We registered with bottle drop to have non-profit blue bags that will automatically go to McCornack when you fill and drop off the bag. Carnival is June 7th--we can all help with gathering donations for the auction! Ask when you are at a store you like, or your work? Alice has gotten 2 tickets for a Beavers football game, and Indy 500 swag just by reaching out!

Cheryle spoke on behalf of Bags of Love--a nonprofit that has provided clothing and household supplies to our families in need at McCornack. It was our nurse who suggested we donate our lost and found items to this organization! We've had our work study students check for names in the items and teachers have detoured their students by the pile to check for their belongings. Items will be available through Thursday. After that it will then be bagged up and donated. There has been an auto dialer, it has been out during dropoff and pickup, and Marin offered to take pics of the items which Regina has agreed to post.

Update: Eugene Education Foundation--the fundraising foundation for our school district--has made a video about what they do, and we are a recipient of some of their grants! Aaron showed a video of Londa being interviewed about the literacy grant program from which we are directly benefitting.

Ways and Means: Unlike our fall Ways and Means, this time we have **\$1832** available and we can cover all our requests!

- Typing Agent is up for renewal. it is traditionally pushed out to the spring meeting so that we can cover it. Its **\$1160** and is heavily used for the 2-5 grade level. Now that everything is online, this is instrumental. It is a gamified way of learning, and a whole lot more engaging than what we grew up with!
- The next request came from the library they have requested **\$350** to cover replacement fees under the new policy. We used to not allow students to check out more books until there was a way to pay off a overdue fee. The library changed that policy, but since books still go missing this would help offset the costs of lost books. They originally had asked for \$500 but we decided to offset it as a fundraising effort called "bottles for books"
- Jen Kirkwood spoke about STEM night asking PTO to supplement the cost of dinner. State Farm has been coming to the school and choosing a student of the month and hosting AVID events with classroom pizza parties, but they had to pull out of paying for the dinner for STEM night, so Jen was asking if we could pay for **\$200** of it.
- Kelsey Molinari our music teacher wants a cajon for **\$75**. Cheryle spoke on behalf of her ukulele shipment, saying she was on cloud 9 and so giddy about being able to use them.
- After all the proposals are funded, we are left with about \$50 in our funds account, as well as our PTO reserve funds set aside in the fall, and unused funding that we promised in the fall Ways and Means. Lynn proposed that we add **\$47** to the Title One night so that they get a little more to pay for dinner. Maren La Roche and Mary Kuhl seconded the proposal and all were in favor. The motion to approve the overall budget was made by Dustin La Roche, Regina seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Nominations for the PTO board for next year are coming up. All the positions are available. Nominations will be at the April meeting, voting will take place at the May meeting and June will welcome the new board. Ellen asked about the bylaws to read up about the positions. Lynn said that they are on the McCornack website, although they need to be updated. Since we are not a separate 501c3 they are not legally binding, but are a good guideline for what the roles encompass.

Heather Friesen led us in the AVID talk. She has had lots of questions about what it is. Heather explained that it's a program to help all students become independent learners. These are lifelong skills, not just college readiness. AVID elementary is different than in the upper grades since it's school wide and we will be incorporating it in all levels. Last year our 3rd-5th grade teachers and Londa went for 3 days to the AVID retreat. 10-12 hours of super involved instruction. This summer K-2nd grade teachers will be attending and learning the techniques/strategies. Then they will come together and sync up what they are teaching so that the kids can be fluent in the language through AVID. This year the teachers chose to focus especially on the organization aspect AVID provides. Part of this includes using a planner, which is still a work in progress. In 3rd/4th they have the planner and are learning how to use it, but by 5th they will be trying to transition to more of a middle school mindset. The planner has a lot in it that made it bulky so the teachers are looking into how to refine that. One aspect of the planner is a place for reflection, which is an integral part of the learning process. The routine aspect of the planner is a daily part of their schedule, and is something for them to hang their hat on. All the AVID techniques can be

used in any subject of learning. Two-column notes, graphic organizers, ven diagrams and four-section notes are all ways to get students to slow down and really think about what they are needing to find out. Amy's question was where does the funding come from? AVID chose our school. Londa had to apply and then the teachers volunteered their time to go to the retreat. Maren's only complaint is the weight of the binder. Teachers appreciate this kind of feedback and will take to the meeting. The AVID funding is for 3-5 year--by then teachers will be trained and the staff will have it down. Thi year the focus was on organization, but next year they will focus on another aspect of AVID, and continue to build on what they have already started. Yuli asked how often should we be checking/grading the journals/binders? Heather and Mary agreed that it is checked daily. 3rd grade is getting familiar with it, but 4th and 5th have more accountability

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 9 @ 6pm in the Library

Joy Marshall from Stand for Children will be here to talk about the local option levy

2019-20 PTO board nomination

learn how to play philosophical chairs!