

Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization
General Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2023

Approved at the Tuesday Nov 7, 2023 Fir Grove PTO General Meeting

Opening

The general meeting of the Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization was called to order at 7:02 p.m. at Fir Grove Elementary in Beaverton, Oregon on September 25, 2023 by Kristina Hiersche.

Present

Kristina Hiersche, Kayla Petersen, Emily Wolverton, Tiffany Schiff, Jessica Summerfield, Sharon Duggan, Beckie Tempel, Kate Prakash, Trisha Gross, Val Roberts, Sarah Hinton, Amanda Sugimoto, Anna Petersen, Kaysi Thompson, Saira Saeed, Yoko Thompson, Aline Vega, Sean Wolverton, Erin Miles, Sheree Winterfeld, Molly Norris, Kristin Melvin, Rhonda Harwood, Samantha Ford

Introduction

The 2023-24 PTO Board Members were introduced.

Fir Grove PTO 2023-24 Board

Kristina Hiersche - President

Lee Anthony - VP of Fundraising

Blair Hamilton - Treasurer

Emily Wolverton - Secretary

Kayla Petersen - Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Duggan, Tiffany Schiff, Jessica Summerfield, Beckie Tempel - Members-at-Large

Minutes Approval

Kristina moved to approve the June 2023 General Meeting Minutes, Val Roberts seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

Principal Update - Erin Miles

- Thank you for coming to the Community Walk Mon 9/25
- Fir Grove 2023 Fall Stats
 - 450 students in K-5, 32 in PreK
 - There are 15 classrooms for K-5, with an average of 19 to 31 kids per class, based on grade level.
 - Classrooms & the number of teachers for this year were forecasted last spring, but some grades have changed over summer. The school did the best as possible to forecast for this year last spring, but we've had unexpected/random growth in our boundary area in certain grades. The hiring budget for teachers is

used up for this year, however school is in the process of hiring some Paraeducators to help in larger classrooms.

- Roof project is the final stages
- The new PreK Playground will be built this year during spring break
- Oct 4 is Walk + Roll to School Day, Fir Grove partnering with Highland Park Middle School to do a walking school bus this day, more info coming soon
- The next Principal Chat is on Friday Oct 6 at 9am in person in the library or on zoom
- Thursday, Oct 12 is the Fun Run. Remember no school on Friday Oct 13
- Picture Day is Tuesday Oct 17
- No school on Friday Oct 27
- The Fall Parties date TBD staff still deciding

Class Size Discussion

- Molly Norris (Ms. May, PreK) & Rhonda Harwood (first grade)
 - When class sizes are large in K-1, it is harder to reach students in the way you want to, plus it is a big difference from PreK, where the state ratio is 10 students to one teacher and 6:1 here at Fir Grove since we are a Title 1 school
- Kristin Melvin (second grade)
 - 11 years at Fir Grove, this year classroom biggest with 29 kids
 - Difficulties with classes this large:
 - Too large for space overall physically
 - Transitions from subject to subject
 - Reaching kids individually and managing individual needs - students needing attention, emotionally, academically and behaviorally
 - Hard on teacher mental health, not sustainable.
- Sheree Winterfeld (fourth grade)
 - 2nd year teaching fourth grade at Fir Grove, 24 year veteran teacher. This year is her largest class size.
 - Here to advocate for kids - testified at Oregon senate and at school board, focused on class sizes in K-1 as is most important as the foundation.
 - Math lessons rely on social learning concepts (groups of 3-4 children) and how to physically fit doing this.
 - Large class size leads to teacher burnout and guilt, when teachers are not able to meet student needs.
- What can we do as PTO
 - Attend school board meetings support teachers.
 - Volunteer to support teachers in classrooms, especially regularly. PTO Volunteer Coordinator Kayla will be working with teachers on their classroom volunteer needs to help match volunteers to teacher's needs/schedules
 - Work together with Fir Grove parent Sarah Hinton who is on Beaverton School District's Educational Equity Advisory Committee - which focuses on class sizes, especially in Title 1 schools. We also have students in grades 2-5 who went through COVID distance learning, so we have a school full of students with needs

Volunteer Update - Kayla Petersen

- The Weekly Volunteer Opportunities Emails have started
- A number of Volunteer Orientations will be scheduled soon for new volunteers to get familiar with volunteering at Fir Grove
- Upcoming Volunteer Needs
 - Fun Run
 - Specific classroom needs - check volunteer opportunity emails
 - Starting a Slack channel with volunteers who want to be notified when there are last minute volunteer opportunities

Fundraising Update - Kristina Hiersche

- Fun Run is Oct 12
 - Adults can volunteer for a shift on MyImpact or come watch their student, we will be publishing the class running schedule
 - This Friday 9/29 is the Fun Run Kick Off Assembly. Fun Run Fliers with info on signing up for PledgeStar will be going home in backpacks that day.
 - DJ doing music on Fun Run Day like last year
- Other Fundraising opportunities
 - BottleDrop bags in front office cupboard, bring full bags back to school and we will take to the BottleDrop center for you
 - Dine 4 Dollars - Trisha Gross
 - Scheduling for the first Wednesday of every month
 - Oct 4 is at Chick-fil-A Raleigh Hills
 - Nov 1 is at Mod Pizza, there is also a Krispie Kreme fundraiser Nov 1-15 as well
 - Dec 6 is at Chipotle

Budget Update - Kristina Hiersche

- So far this year we've earned \$300 in BottleDrop
- Download the Box Tops for Education app, scan your receipts
- 65% of the Fir Grove PTO budget is generated through the Fun Run!
- Thank you Beaverton Christian Church for \$7K for school supplies! The covers whole school school supply budget

Art Literacy Update - Beckie Tempel

- Art Literacy is a district-run program, where volunteers are in classrooms teaching about a different artist/culture 6 times per year
- Only 4 classrooms still need an Art Lit volunteer, if interested, please reach out to Beckie
- Will be scheduling the first Art Lit Volunteer training session the first week of Oct, with the goal of finishing the first artist lesson by the end of Oct

ESN/Green Team Update - Kate Prakash

- Eco School Network focuses on Sustainability in schools and early education

- Green Team for students was established last year with Sarah Hinton, has focused on reusable silverware in cafeteria, school composting, campus cleanup, and an anti-idle campaign
- Applied for and awarded a Twig Grant of \$5K for new student garden
 - Friday Oct 13 Garden Project Day for community (no school day) - begin the new student garden project - volunteer invite coming Monday on ParentSquare

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by Kristina Hiersche.