

**Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
January 11, 2024

**Approved at the Thursday March 7, 2024 PTO General Meeting**

**Opening**

The general meeting of the Fir Grove Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization was called to order at 6:36 p.m. at Fir Grove Elementary in Beaverton, Oregon on January 11, 2024 by Kristina Hiersche.

**Present**

Kristina Hiersche, Blair Hamilton, Kayla Petersen, Emily Wolverton, Lee Anthony, Tiffany Schiff, Beckie Tempel, Lyndsay Roller, Minta Johnson, Sarah Hinton, Kate Prakash, Erin Miles

**Minutes Approval**

Kayla Petersen moved to approve the November 2023 General Meeting Minutes, Tiffany Schiff seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

**Principal Update - Erin Miles**

- Early release tomorrow at 11:35am for inclement weather
- Kids Heart Challenge fundraising has a \$2500 goal, and is currently over \$1000
- 2 new Paraeducators have been hired for IEP students & Kindergarten
- Menlo/Allen school crossing has had some traffic issues. Erin met with public safety/Beaverton Police Department, they have requested our community report incidents via BPD's incident form, and she will be sending the link to the PTO to share out with the community.
- No school 1/15 & 1/16 - focusing on literacy and curriculum to support Oregon's Tribal History Law on the 16th Staff Development Day.
- 1/26 No school day is a day for teachers to work on the students progress reports

**Volunteer Update - Kayla Petersen**

- Class Friendship Parties on Feb 16 - Good initial response for volunteers! 5 classes covered so far.
- Family Game Night Pizza volunteers still needed - Minta Johnson volunteered
- Tiffany Schiff is stepping up as coordinator of Donuts with Your Grownup on Feb 8

**Science Expo May 17 - Kristina Hiersche**

- Former volunteer coordinator of the event is stepping down, the Board is working on putting together a volunteer planning committee for this year's event. Please reach out if you're interested and please encourage those with STEAM background to volunteer!
- Since it is often challenging to get day-of event volunteers for Science Expo since families want to explore the event with their students, Lyndsay Roller suggested we reach out to Greenway and/or Vose who have similar events, and do a parent volunteer

swap (our volunteers help their event, and theirs help our event), so our families can enjoy the event together.

- We are working to get a connection at Nike for shoe donations (for shoe painting at the event) and district's STEAM Mobile Classroom at Science Expo

#### **Fundraising Update - Lee Anthony**

- Dine for Dollars - have been very successful this year!
  - Red Robin last night
  - Panda Express - Feb 7
  - McMenamins - most likely March 5

#### **Budget Update - Blair Hamilton**

- Our BottleDrop total is over \$1,900!
- We got \$322 from Chipotle Night, \$275 from Krispie Kreme
- Added \$100 to snack pantry budget
- Projecting a \$7,000 surplus this year

#### **Art Literacy Update - Beckie Tempel**

- 2 classes will complete Japan tomorrow
- Jan 18 is the next Art Lit training for Lavadour
- Beckie to work with Erin on teacher communication issues

#### **5th Grade Sendoff Committee - Lyndsay Roller**

- Awesome new group of volunteers, had an initial committee meeting and discussed budget
- Plan to go offsite somewhere for the event so it is a lighter lift for volunteers
- Interested in some sort of fundraising for supplemental budget - for example, do concessions at Multicultural Night, etc. or work with a local nursery for plant sale at the Science Expo
- The committee is in communication with 5th grade teachers

#### **ESN/Green Team Update - Kate Prakash**

- Nine 5th Grade Leaders have stepped up for Green Team, and will be helping with setting up Gleaners on Fridays
- Setting up Green Team meetings every other Friday - need volunteers to help run the meetings. Kate to connect with Kayla Petersen or potentially Aprille Gould to help.
- Aprille Gould is working with Kate to spearhead the school garden, working on planting before spring break
- The annual EcoSchool Network Beach Clean Up is Presidents Day weekend

#### **Chess 4 Success Club - Erin Miles**

- Has not been around since Covid
- Budget is needed to staff a Fir Grove Chess Club
- Would PTO consider funding this to start next school year?

- Serve 30 kids
- Erin to come back with budget need proposal for the PTO to consider

#### **Educational Equity Advisory Committee - Sarah Hinton**

- Sarah sits on the district's Educational Equity Advisory Committee. Her personal goal is to focus on alleviating large class sizes at Title 1 schools.
- She would like our community to share their experiences/issues of equity with her, especially how large class sizes are impacting their learning. Specific examples are great to share with district, and Sarah wants to advocate for these specific student needs via the committee at the district level. The PTO will relay this request to the Fir Grove community via the PTO newsletters and social media.
- Sarah said her goal is to advocate for more full time teachers, not just stop gap large class sizes with Paraeducators or other support solutions.

#### **Staff Appreciation - Minta Johnson**

- Doing January and July staff birthday treats this month, does summer bdays on half birthday
- Qdoba was huge hit for staff appreciation lunch, good option for future staff lunches

#### **Next General Meeting Thursday March 7 at 6:30pm in the Community Room**

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. by Kristina Hiersche.