



PTO Executive Committee Virtual Board Meeting
January 6, 2021

Attendees: Beth Carmody (Principal), Sara Dahlstrom (President), Nissa Cox (Vice President), Sandra Carlson (Treasurer), Brenda Miller (Assistant Treasurer), Annie Cudney (Communications), Amy Kay (Communications), Nicole Roberts (Secretary)

Call to order 9:03am.

Approval of 12/2/20 Virtual Meeting Minutes:

Minutes emailed. Annie motions to approve. Brenda seconds. All in Favor. So moved.
***12/2/20 Minutes saved to Drive. Nicole will send 1/6/21 minutes by 1/13/21.**

Yearbook Update – Nicole Roberts

Received files from Stuart Rodgers. Contacted publisher and obtained access to prior yearbook templates. Many responses to Item photo requests.

Principal's Report – Beth Carmody

Ordinary teacher absences in addition to Covid. Kate Edwards received flowers from PTO after her mother's passing. State is anticipating vaccine availability for teachers in late February. Uncertainty remains as to how vaccine will affect operations. Superintendent has asked schools to develop an all-in plan. Building constraints would require schools to sacrifice six feet of distancing and increase class size. Board members will be able to view potential classroom setups at different distancing levels. Beth and Josh Swanner of Greeley will collaborate on this planning by visiting each other's classrooms. All-in plan may require re-shifting of some existing classroom norms. Losing six feet of social distance may also complicate teacher hiring.

Would families be interested in extending school day by 30 minutes for read aloud with an associate? Interest in this activity may be greatest among early readers in the lower grades. Beth evaluating options for maintaining the current quality of instruction while providing additional flexibility for parents.

Parents may be interested in adding additional outdoor time to the school day. Beth evaluating a pilot where one cohort at a time could use the playground during current school hours. Kindergarten has been using part of the playground with success.

School Board is primarily receiving feedback from parents interested in moving to all-in model. Parents who are happy with smaller class size and consistency of hybrid model should reach out to the Board to share their perspective.

Parents and staff report being pleased with new fourth grade substitute.

District remains unable to provide remote instruction to voluntary travelers during their travel-based quarantines. ***PTO can include Item reminder.**

President's Report – Sara Dahlstrom

MLK Day: Storyteller Oba William King contracted for Monday, 1/11/21, virtual live presentations from 12:30-1:15pm (grades 3-4) and 1:30-2pm (K-2). Links on Schoology for week of independent service projects organized by Jessalyn Garvey.

World Travelers Update: Potentially first week of February. Japan. Hosted by Yamada family. ***Item blurb to watch for event in early February.**

Assemblies: Gina Gooden working on STEAM assembly for March. Still researching.

Magician: TBD.

WGST: Sara will Zoom with Gary and Elisa. PTO will offer financial support primarily because parents cannot enter school building. PTO will use money from existing accounts rather than fundraise. Preserving the community building aspect of Mayfest is more important than fundraising. School is financially secure, and PTO will be able to find fundraising opportunities next year.

***PTO will brainstorm outdoor opportunities for community building.**

Vice President's Report – Nissa Cox

Nissa will explore whether Northwest Passage can provide outdoor activity.

Communications Report – Annie Cudney & Amy Kay

Is there a flow chart to help parents proceed once a symptom arises (runny nose, etc.)? Could put on website, and link to Item. MLK blast to go out this Sunday. Resource Center gets credit for 45% of \$7500 book fair total to spend at ABC Fairs, also remaining funds from last year.

Treasurer's Report – Sandra Carlson & Brenda Miller

\$1,600.00 from Spirit Wear.

12/15/20 School Board Meeting Update – Brenda Miller.

Sent via email on 12/16/20 and included below.

Meeting adjourned.

12/15/20 School Board Meeting Update

The Tax Levy and other payroll/admin items were discussed and approved. The 2020 Audited Financial Report was discussed and approved. The World Language Teachers presented a review of their curriculum. The District continues to develop a plan for a longer in-person learning model by surveying the schools and adhering to IDPH 6' (or less soon?) social distancing requirements. The Board asked for a specific long-term

plan for a longer school day from the District for the January/February meetings. Issues were brought up including the cost of additional staffing to implement a longer school day, which is currently estimated at \$1.9M/year (>20 new staff members), but would be prorated for the spring term. Much more to come on this in 2021.

December survey results support a 2 week remote learning model after winter break. About half of the 200 staff responses indicate either plans to travel out of state or are undecided about travel. Similarly, about half of the 800 family responses indicate either plans to travel out of state or are undecided. Note, the deadline for responses is not until tomorrow.

After the Board approved moving forward with a Pilot testing program in January, the contractor providing the Covid tests no longer has the time or supplies to fulfill our small pilot program. The Board decided to wait until January to make any commitments regarding testing with the hope of better information from the IDPH regarding travel quarantine periods and approved types of testing. Hopefully, more testing contractors will also be available.