



Farmdale FPA Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2017

Meeting called to order at: 6:38 pm

Attending: Lisa Miller, Terri Meyer, Tiffany Kemmler, Johanna Kreibick, Ed Kreibick, Trisha Pearson, Elise Wysocki, Kristen Nikolaus, Micael McGovern, Melissa Reihart, Whitney Ireland

Minutes from, September 21, 2017

Changes: None

Motion: Approved

Treasurer's Report (Whitney Ireland), All of the details of the treasurer report can be found on the paper provided or the treasurer tab on the FES site.

Changes: None

Motion: Approved

Principal's Input (Mrs. Pearson), Since our last meeting, we have held Parent/Teacher conferences and we had a wonderful attendance which is greatly appreciated. The parents who were unable to attend, we are currently in the process of trying to schedule follow up conferences or phone cal conferences. I also want to thank the FPA for the Scholastic Book dollars, these are dollars that were left over from last year's book fair and needed to be spent by October. Mrs. Rineer contacted teachers for book titles and those have been purchased and will benefit all students in the school. Something new that we would like to start at Farmdale is a "Parent Work Center." It would mean that parents would come in and provide clerical support and help with other tasks for teachers. This would include helping with projects like laminating or binding of books. We are in the process of trying to solicit a Chairperson who might want to help organize and recruit volunteers. We realize it may be a slow process at first, but hope that once parents realize it's another way for them to get in to the building and work, it will become more popular.

Some teachers use parents more than others but this is another opportunity for parents to come in and help the building at large. Tomorrow is our next “Be the One,” assembly and I am getting silly stringed by the box top winning class, Mrs. Grim. We are making some changes to our PBIS program. Our “Be the One” board was recently filled with 10 winners in a row. We are also adding something new, as part of our “Fishtic,” incentive once a month we have teachers pull three names and those students get brag tags they can hang from their book bag. In addition we want to have monthly pizza parties and game time during recess. In addition to the three names pulled, teachers will be pulling an additional two fishtics, one for the pizza party and one for game time. The pizza party winner will come during their lunch time and the other student will be part of game time during their recess. Winners are a random process where students can win multiple times if they are really lucky. We are not keeping track of who won. We are also trying to encourage the students to earn the fish tickets and encourage teachers to give them as well. We are in the process of establishing a goal we would like to achieve at the end of the year and what the prize will be for students if we achieve that goal. In addition to the gold tickets, we are offering prizes to teachers who gave the ticket to any of the students in the winning row. There will be several options that teachers can pick. We are welcome to any new ideas and what you think could be added to the PBIS. The kids are getting excited about the different changes and the additional prizes. We have also identified where there could be possible concerns in meeting our four expectations in the school; engage, responsible, respectful and safe. Something we will also be doing with the Fab Five, building aides, is we will have Fab Five grade level of the month. Classes will be earning points when they line up for recess both inside and outside to encourage them to be responsible. One of the reasons this is important is that if there would be an emergency, they would line up quickly because they are so used to doing it on a daily basis. Having that incentive to have them be respectful, responsible, engaged and safe on the playground and responsive to the adults outside is very important. The tally system will get the winning grade level an additional recess. First grade is the first winner of this new program.

Teacher’s Input (Miss Wysocki), I sent an email to the staff asking if there were any questions or concerns and received no responses. As was asked by the FPA board, I sent out an email asking if teachers had any ideas for needs in the building that could benefit the entire school body. Several responses were received: electronic message board that could display announcements by the road and be typed in remotely (this would need to be discussed with the township due to the close proximity to a traffic light and restrictions that may be in place), provide a presenter for an assembly to come in and do a presentation focusing on persistence or determination, help pay for a “Night of the Arts,” artist to come to the school and present, obtain a new projector and white screen for assemblies, and to have an outside classroom where the picnic tables are located by adding pavers, plants, trees, etc.

Action: Mrs. Pearson will discuss these ideas at the next faculty meeting and report back to the board about their ideas and thoughts.

SPAC Report (Ed Kreibick),

- **Bus Seating (Dan),** The max number of students per bus is 77, which equals to three students per seat. Ridership at the secondary levels drops off, so while we may plan a route with 80 or more students, significantly less will ride. Bus drivers are responsible to

provide us with student counts on a regular basis. This helps determine appropriate ridership levels on a bus. Additionally, we ask that bus drivers implement seating charts to help minimize any overcrowding from instruments, situations where students triple up to avoid sitting with a particular student, etc. We have on-bus cameras that allow us to see cars in front of the bus but also students inside the bus. Therefore, *if you notice an overcrowding issue on a bus, please contact our Transportation Office. Please provide the bus number, date and time, so we can review bus video and determine potential issues.*

- **Placement of substitutes with children in-district (Chris)**, This should not be an issue when we are dealing with multiple-day, extended, or long-term substitute assignments – we typically know about and can line these up far enough in advance to ensure that student-parent overlap does not occur. The same scrutiny, however, is not possible when dealing with daily subs, which often involve assignments literally a matter of hours before school starts. There is no way to cross-check subs against students to see if overlap exists for daily sub assignments.
- **Advertising non-school clubs/activities at school (Chris/Tab)**, We have a process for these requests. Advertisements/fliers come to the superintendent’s office for approval. If Chris is ok with the content (nothing profane, objectionable – rarely happens), information is sent to schools for placement in the offices in a location where students or parents can pick this information up. The availability of fliers is normally made known through morning announcements to students, as well as a listing of available fliers to parents/guardians in the 4:00 pm eNews.
- **Adding recess at Elementary Level**, We believe kids need an opportunity to decompress and refocus. This doesn’t necessarily always need to be in the form of an outdoor recess. Teachers are encouraged to provide opportunities for students to move – brain breaks, access to large collaboration spaces (LG rooms, collaboration space in the newer buildings), etc. We have to make sure to provide a minimum of 900 hours of instruction at the elementary level per PDE – recess does not count toward these instructional hours. Our daily schedule must also work within the confines of our teacher contract. These two factors place some limitations on the addition of a recess that would cause the elimination of another block of instructional time. Mike Bromirski will be discussing this with the elementary principals during their October meeting. If any new information arises, we will share it at SPAC.
- **Healthier food options**, First, we want to clarify that no foods served in our district are fried. Sometimes, things that make sense to serve, we are not able to do (i.e. We can’t offer salads five days per week at the elementary level due to the items that must be on the salad, such as protein, which creates higher sodium levels). The Food Services Department is implementing “Try Me Tuesday,” later this fall/winter. Students will be encouraged to try new menu items. If you have specific questions or suggestions, contact Brian Rathgeb, Food Services Director.
- **Games on School iPads**, Request is to limit non-educational games that can be downloaded on school iPads. All apps are approved by the school district and may be downloaded in self-services on the iPad. If you have any questions about a specific app, reach out to Jeremy Paul, Assistant Director of Technology.
- **Future Meetings: November 29, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Public Board Room**

Old Business:

Kids Stuff Coupon Books (Beth Rodkey), We earned a total of \$2,389.00 this year. I am still waiting for UPS to email me the shipping labels. Teachers are provided with free books as a thank you for helping with the fundraiser. Those books will be delivered this week.

R&K Sub Sale (Dana Taylor), We made a total of \$2,456.00 on 89 orders, which is approximately \$850 less than last year. A possible reason for this is due to the fact that they discontinued their frozen pizzas this year. We are currently looking in to the possibility of using a different vendor next year and will report back on what we learn. We will also need a new chairperson for this fundraiser, if anyone is interested please contact Kristen Nikolaus.

Pellman's Pie Sale (Shelby Siegrist), The delivery date for these items will be November 16th at Farmdale Elementary between 4-5:30 pm. These items will not be able to be kept overnight, so please be sure to pick them up on the date and time provided. We sold a total of 353 items this year. The total sales and our earnings will be out soon. The class that sells the most items in the school will win a prize.

Book Fair (Whitney Dover), Thank you to all the volunteers that have signed up to help and/or donate supplies! The book fair is scheduled for next week. Set up will be on Monday, Tuesday with be "Dudes and Donuts," Wednesday thru Friday will be the book fair and Friday will be our clean up day. We are still in need of help Wednesday evening and Friday for clean up, if you can help during those days please contact me. If anyone would like to sign up to provide desserts for teacher preview day, we would appreciate it. It looks like we have had a great response for our book drive! We will be sorting through the books on Friday. The books will be provided to students who do not have money to shop at the book fair. We will determine how the left over books will be used after the book fair is finished. There is a possibility that they may be used for the spring book fair as well, or we may donate them to the Falcon Cart.

Box Tops (Lisa Miller), Mrs. Grim's class won our contest with a total of 598 box tops. They will get to silly string Mrs. Pearson at a later date. We brought in a total of 5,259 box tops that will earn us a total of \$525.90.

Teacher Ambassador (Lisa Miller), In October a basket was placed in the teacher lounge filled with fortunate cookies. A sign accompanied it that stated, "We are so fortunate to have such wonderful staff at Farmdale." There will be pumpkin rolls brought in for the month of November. December is whoopee pies, January is still open and February will be Puppy Chow. Teacher's food allergies are also being taken in to consideration. If you know of a teacher that really loves something, please email Lisa and let her know. The teacher holiday breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20th.

Room Parent Coordinator (Sue Forry), All Room Parent committee members should have been contacted. If you signed up to be a committee member and have not been contacted, please let Sue Forry know. Please know that some of the room parents were asked to serve and did not necessarily volunteer. We appreciate everyone who is helping out.

New Business:

Holiday Craft Night (Michelle Williams), Holiday Craft Night will be held on December 7th, 2017. If your child is interested in participating, please have your form sent to the school by November 9th. So far, we have had 6 forms returned to the school. I am currently working on responding to the various vendors who have expressed interest in attending. The bowling team has been scheduled to help with the various crafts again this year.

Teacher Holiday Breakfast (Lisa Miller), The breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20th. The planning is underway. We are looking at other vendor options for food and also possible donations.

Dream Dinners (Tracey Keller), The goal for this fundraiser is to schedule it in late January or February depending on their schedule and the menu options. Dream Dinners will be contacted this month to begin organizing and planning this event.

Fun Guessing Game for students in the month of December (Kristen Nikolaus), If anyone has any ideas of a fun guessing game for the students, please contact Kristen.

Spirit wear (Bridget Sohonyay), We have the website set up and are currently working to embed it into the Farmdale Elementary website. There are many different options and logos to choose from. A handout will be sent home once everything is set up and ready to roll out.

Read-A-Thon (Johanna Kreibick), The goal is to schedule the Read-A-Thon from January 25 until February 7th. Some of the special days we are considering are as follows:

- January 26th – Magical day (coordinate with the magician at family fun night)
- January 29th – Crazy Sock day
- January 30th – Slipper Day
- January 31st – Hat Day
- February 1st – Crazy Hair Day
- February 2nd – Jersey or Team Shirt Day
- February 5th – Tropical/Beach Day (No Swimsuits)
- February 6th – Mix/Match Day
- February 7th – Grade Level Color Day (we will assign colors)

There will be one winner per grade level and the prize will be 20 tickets to the Festival. There will also be one overall top boy and girl winner and they will win a bracelet for unlimited bounce activities at the Festival. The total cost to the FPA will be \$100 of Festival bracelets and tickets. There was discussion about tallying the minutes read and how long the read-a-thon would last. There will be further discussion before anything is officially decided. I will be in need of volunteer parents to help me tally as this took hours last year to do on my own. The initial information sheet will explain the Read-A-Thon on one side and have a chart for the money pledged on the other. Each grade will have “minutes read,” goals set and if achieved will be able to win an extra 20 minute recess for their grade. Teacher input will be used to establish the reading goals for each grade level. We would like to incorporate a Read in Night with the Read-A-Thon as well since we will be unable to have it during the book fair in the fall due to a delay in the grant funding. More information will be conveyed as the program is refined and developed over the next month.

Scrip Program (Kristen Nikolaus), We are investigating adding the scrip program to our fundraising schedule. As this is a new process, the board will be running it the first time. We will be selling numerous gift cards at our craft night that families can purchase.

Family Fun Night (Kristen Nikolaus), Since the FPA has additional money left from last year's fundraising efforts, we will be providing a free Family Fun Night for students and their families at Farmdale. We are currently looking for a chairperson willing to organize this event. We are hoping to hold it in late February or early March due to other organizations that use the building gymnasium during earlier months. More details will be coming as they are decided.

Ipad and square for Farmdale events (Kristen Nikolaus), Due to repeated requests for credit card transactions at various Farmdale events, the FPA is considering purchasing an ipad and a chip square reader. We are also looking in to possible donations that will need to meet the square reader requirements. More information will be available in the months to come.

Round Table:

- **Tiffany Kemmler**, Due to a recent email I received from Indian Echo Caverns, I am currently working on this year's silent auction letter. If you have any ideas of businesses or vendors who may be interested in donating to our Silent Auction, held during the end of the year festival, please let me know.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:55 pm

Next Meeting: February 8th, 2018