

Grout PTA Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2015

Board members present: Ashley, Sara, Benjamina, Kelly, Virna, Natasaia, Kirsten

Call to order: 6:45

WELCOME

Sara's vision for tonight's meeting:

- HAVE FUN!!!
- Be proud of yourselves for being here and showing your child how much you value education and how to give back to the community.
- Please feel welcome to speak up with any thoughts or questions.
- Understand children succeed when families, schools, and communities work together to make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.

Sara's key components for a successful, strong, fun, committed PTA:

- Teamwork/collaboration
- Respect each other. We value our colleagues and ourselves.
- Be accountable. Acknowledge your obligations and deliver on your promises.
- Meetings stay here. NO outside meetings.
- Don't assume.
- Focus stays on our children. Staying focused will make us realize the BIG picture of why we are here.
- Commitment. We are dedicated to promoting children's health, wellbeing, and educational success through strong parent, family and community involvement.

Meeting participants were asked to listen to song ("We Are the World"). Then each introduced self and came up with a word to describe self & something he/she would like to bring to the Grout community (e.g. "curiosity"). Each word was written on a star and will be displayed.

STANDING RULES

Natasaia described rules, and pointed out proposed adjustments to rules. (See separate "Standing Rules" draft.)

Diane H. makes motion to adopt changes to standing rules, Erin seconds, none opposed—

MOTION PASSED

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—Principal Annie

What's new at Grout?

- Certified media specialist to team with Chris Hamilton in the library.
- Increase in information technology and related skills taught to student.
- Assistant in each kindergarten classroom.
- Replacement of former language interpreter.
- New paraeducators, as many former aides have begun teacher prep programs.

For new parents, Principal Annie describes:

- All Stars as part of our school community
- 30 kids in each 3rd grade class—high numbers; advocating for smaller class sizes, but not likely to change this year.
- Using current staff (e.g. Ms. Williams for reading support) to support classroom teachers & looking for solutions w/i school to support the classrooms.
- SUN School
- Playworks

GOALS for Grout (building our community)

Based on results of survey distributed to Grout staff May 2015:

- Classroom representatives—if interested, contact Kelly
- Coffee/tea time for parents—any parents interested in starting a regular group?
- PTA to support/focus on one grade per month. Board members drew month/grade matches at random:
 - October—5th Grade
 - November—Special Education
 - December—1st
 - January—3rd
 - February—Kindergarten
 - March—2nd
 - April—4th
- Teacher allowance—PTA to fund \$100 per classroom, with passage of budget
- New play structure—grant needed
- Garden club—grant needed
- White boards for teachers—Paint-on white board has been used by a few teachers with great success; other teachers have used shower board (inexpensive options). Grant would be needed to replace all chalkboards w/ new white boards.

- Sustainability
- Additional teacher training—workshops

Sara presents CALENDAR OF EVENTS for the 2015-16 school year:

OCTOBER:

- 8th: Drama Performance PTA Bake Sale—2 volunteers needed
- 15th: PTA MEETING (Special Guests-- Coach Chelsie Kimura and Dave Francunus)
- 19th – 22nd Book Fair—lots of volunteers needed
- 29th: Harvest Festival—lots of volunteers needed

NOVEMBER:

- 12th PTA MEETING
- 21st PANCAKE BREAKFAST/HOLIDAY BAZAAR (8-3)
- More on this event after PTA meeting tonight

DECEMBER:

- 3rd: Drama Performance PTA Bake Sale
- 10th: PTA MEETING (Cookie exchange)

JANUARY:

- 7th: PTA MEETING
- 14th: PTA Clothing Closet—volunteers needed

FEBRUARY:

- 4th: Drama Performance PTA Bake Sale
- 11th: PTA MEETING
- 18th: Kindergarten round up

MARCH:

- 1st: PTA Clothing closet (volunteers needed)
- 3rd: PTA MEETING
- 10th: WORLD CELEBRATION FESTIVAL/Pie Auction—many volunteers needed
- 17th: Drama Performance PTA Bake Sale
- 18th: Plant pre-orders go out

\APRIL:

1st: Plant orders due

7th: PTA MEETING

13th: Run For the Arts

15th: Run For the Arts (rain date)

23rd: Plant and hot dog sale; plant order pick up

MAY:

2nd – 6th TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Do we have a couple of awesome volunteers who would like to create a spectacular week for our beloved faculty here at Grout?

5th: PTA MEETING (new board members elected)

JUNE:

2nd: PTA MEETING (PARTY)—Budget for the following year

3rd: 5th Grade party given by the PTA

PTA Clothing Closet: purpose, location, and need for volunteers described.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Virna describes opportunities available and shows the sign-up/info/interest sheet for those interested in volunteering.

*immediate need for someone to submit Holiday Bazaar info to community calendars and other advertising venues.

BUDGET

Natasia goes over prospective budget, including projected income and expenses for 2015-16.

[Erin moves to pass budget. Motion seconded. None opposed.](#)

[2015-16 budget is PASSED.](#)

SUN SCHOOL REPORT

Annie T. describes Sun School program & changes for this year:

- offered M-TH (no Friday classes), BUT
- term extends until break from school; program now covers more weeks in the school year.

- kids guaranteed 2 days (not 3)
- no K offerings for fall/winter—will offer in spring (Exceptions made: talk to Annie.)
- Annie's office in cafeteria
- parent volunteers always welcome/needed

DINE OUT INFO

Kirsten describes scheduled Dine-Outs and asks for suggestions/connections.

Sept. 18—Cloud City Ice Cream

October—Bridge City Pizza

January—Hopworks

NEXT MEETING

October 15

If you want to put something on the meeting agenda, let us know by Oct. 1

Ended meeting w/ raffle drawing for K parents; gave away a kid size Grout sweatshirt!

Meeting adjourned 8:00