



Cooper Landing School Parent Advisory Committee

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Cooper Landing School PAC/Site Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

The mission of Cooper Landing School is to provide a positive learning atmosphere, placing the highest emphasis on academic achievement and service to the community, while maintaining a balance between school, family and community activities. This will be accomplished by meaningful communication and collaboration to utilize all available talents and resources.

Meeting called to order at 12:35pm.

Roll Call

Heather Pearson, Heather Harrison, Virginia Morgan, Rachel Sullivan, Susanna LaRock, Jessica Larsen, Tanisha Walters, DeAnna Hoy, Tommy Gossard, Doug Hayman (by video call)

Approval of Agenda

Virginia requested that we add a community school update to new business. The movement for this was seconded and approved. The agenda as amended was approved.

Review and Approval of Minutes

All of the outstanding action items from the last minutes will be addressed by Mr. Hayman during the principal's report.

The minutes were approved as written.

Addition of new members

The non-members in attendance were invited to join, Heather Harrison explained some responsibilities and expectations of PAC membership. No one requested to join at this time.

Principals' Report

Bussing Quote: If Cooper Landing School hires a bus for ski trips on its own, it will cost approximately \$400-450 per ski trip. But we could potentially cost-share with Moose Pass School, that already hires a bus, coordinating schedules for a Y pickup – we would need to get students that far, and pick them up

there, too. We would have to negotiate with Moose Pass how to best split the expense, if we are interested in this alternative. This quote is specifically for the distance and time of a ski trip, but we can thus extrapolate and estimate how much it might cost for another type of field trip, if we need bussing for other events. Note: busses are only for registered students and chaperones, no younger siblings would be allowed.

Teacher supervision for older kids if Mr. Gossard leaves with younger kids: The short answer is yes, the older kids can stay at the school without a certified teacher, on a case by case basis. The instruction that would occur in the school during his absence would have to be planned by him, as a certified instructor, but it can be administered by classified personnel.

We will be doing a second Anchorage field trip, to go see Step Afrika at the Discovery Theatre, on March 23, sponsored by the school, not PAC. It is approved, but we would cancel in the event of too few drivers. Only question is drivers. If some students do not want to go, Mr. Gossard could plan curriculum to be administered in his absence.

The written school discipline plan was handed out. This is an “FYI” document, not to be approved by PAC, just reviewed. Note in bullet 2 that it is customizable for age of the student. Very individualized, not about what the punishment is (we do not have a punishment system per se), each case will result in what is going to be most effective in changing the students behavior so they can have the best opportunity to learn/improve.

Mr. Gossard does have a student reflection form/slip he uses (passed out for our reference), which helps with communication and theorizing what the student needs. Helps to systematically assure that we are not just guessing about what is going on, but have a record of behavior issues to make plans based on accurate history of events. When these are used, one copy goes home, and another goes in Mr. Hayman’s file so he has them as reference material.

All parents have access to Power School and any discipline notes that might be put on there. Few if any behavior issues that arise in elementary age students would need to be put in Power School. For our reference, only high school records continue on for post-secondary education. This is mostly internal.

Mr. Gossard also explained the calendars he keeps on the students’ desks, on which he can make behavior notes as well, as a point of reference for privileges, etc.

On another note, Mr. Hayman also made an offer to the PAC: in the past he had some ceramic mugs made for staff at the school. This year the PTO at Tustumena is sponsoring these mugs as staff appreciation gifts. They are custom made by his sister’s ceramic shop. He is putting in an order for Tustumena, to be shipped here around May 1. **AI:** We should let him know if we want to add to that order for our school. The cups are about \$20 each.

Mr. Hayman also wanted to let us know that our online newsletter is getting seen around the country and the world. Susanna has switched to the Smore version with Hope and Moose Pass, at Mr. Hayman’s request. In this version she can link to business sponsors, helping the school contribute to the community even as the community contributes to the school. In discussion it was noted that any parent can opt their child out of any publicity in picture or name – Susanna does not post names anyway, on the newsletter, Facebook or other public places.

Teachers' Report:

Battle of the books went great. The 3-4 grade team came in 5th in the district. The 5-6 grade team tied for 2nd. Our high school team won district, so Linnaea and Hunter will be battling for the state title on Feb 26.

Feb 22 the school is calling in with other schools to do a PE activity. First time they have ever done it. Several rural Alaskan schools call in together, they have been sent exercises to do ahead of time so they are familiar. They flip the cameras to see what everyone is doing. They already did a test call to get it set up and ready to roll.

Fish & Game has invited us to go ice fishing on March 2 on Grouse Lake, on the way to Seward. About 35 minute drive. Hot dogs and hot chocolate available. Mr. Gossard told F&G he would ask the PAC first. After brief discussion the general feeling was that going on Kenai Lake with help from community members is better, because they can take just one hour out of the day, won't need drivers, etc.

On Mar 7 Fish & Game will come to do a salmon dissection. Hope School and Moose Pass School are still up in the air about joining us or not.

Mar 22 is the field trip to Step Afrika. Show starts at 11:45. Mr. Gossard proposes to go skating again afterward, as it was such a hit last time and a great way to end the day.

Remaining ski days are February 27, March 6, 20, 27, and April 3 (with April 10th as possible makeup day).

Standardized testing window is April 2-13. Grades 3-9 participate. Typically Mr. Gossard cooks a breakfast. They are thinking ahead to plan the grocery shopping.

Swimming lessons: Soldotna High School has limited days available in April. Seward High School says, as of last Wednesday, they have a lot of space in April and May, but we must book quickly. So the question is, do we want swimming lessons? What age group should participate? Which pool? No swimming teachers are included, so we have to provide our own. Perhaps Ann and Brad Hanson again? Seward High pool is preferable, because of the shallow stairs area for short students (kindergarteners). Seward only charges \$20/day for the pool, so only \$100 for a week. We have nothing on the calendar for May at this point except Kindergarten Graduation and the Last Day Picnic. We agreed that having it in Seward, as late in May as we can, for 5 straight days, based on Hanson's availability, would be preferable. It is a lot of driving, but Mr. Gossard can take 7, so only 6 other students need transport, and we can divide the remaining driving responsibility among the parents for different days. It would be a fun way to spend a week in May when the students are otherwise distracted. There is money in the student activity fund to cover the pool rental fee.

(Note: after the meeting ended, Mr. Gossard was able to confirm the Hansons can teach lessons May 7-11, and he booked the pool at 1pm for those 5 days straight.)

Nurse Yoly took the students cross country skiing last week, and she is coming back and wants to go to Quartz Creek for a couple of hours this week Friday afternoon, but we would need another driver and participating parent. No parents were able to immediately commit, but if we don't get extra driving/skiing help, she will just take them down the river again. The kids love skiing no matter what, so it doesn't matter to them where they go. (It's all about the hot chocolate!)

The Artist-in-Residence Grant is approved again for up to \$1000. Mr. Gossard has reached out to TBA Theatre again but has not heard back from them. It's always a matter of getting an artist who is willing to come and can work with our schedule.

Treasurer's Report

Our current balance is \$5673.02. Once parent-paid ski payments go in, we will have spent very close to the amount we earned this school year.

We got a handful of significant donations from community members – Mary Louise Molenda, Nels Barnett, Eric Painter – and assigning the account those funds go in ends up being ambiguous, as rarely would a donor specify “student activity fund” or “PAC fund”. Any funds go first into the student activity account, but money can and does move back and forth between those accounts for various reasons. Ultimately, the goal is to make sure there is enough money for the students, and that we don't spend more than we earn. PAC usually covers things the activity fund cannot cover, or that the school did not plan to fund in the first place. PAC also funds things pertaining to just select student groups, like Battle of the Books books, since the student activity fund can only cover things that benefit all of the students as a whole. In the end, if PAC has a shortfall and undesignated donations that went into the student activity fund could resolve the funding problem, reassigning those donations to PAC is probably an option.

AI: Susanna is good about doing thank you cards for everyone to sign, but we need to check to make sure the donors noted above have been thanked.

Virginia had three years of account records printed, probably best for the officers to get together and look at them at another time. Virginia did publicly note that the reports look really nice, and whatever Susanna is doing in keeping records and making reports is very helpful.

Fund Raising & Gaming Permit

As noted in treasurer's report, we are keeping ahead this year, with softball concessions, equinox run, and holiday market funds brought in. But if we cut out one of those things, we will have to reduce our spending or find other sources of revenue. And we are cutting out the Equinox Run (it is too late to resurrect it this year), so we do need to increase our fund raising capacity at the holiday market and softball, or add another fund raiser to the mix.

Of note, we did use the gaming permit last year to do split the pot at the run. It brought in \$95, which has paid for the gaming permit to this point. But there is not enough in the gaming fund for another renewal without drawing from other funds, so we may want to use the gaming permit again to help fund itself at least.

The elf auction that Laura Johnson headed was very successful, brought in more than \$1300. Should we do that again? The idea was put out to do it at the time of the softball tournament, maybe on our concession night, but we recognized that getting willing participants just as the busy season starts up is much less likely than in winter when things are slow. It also conflicts with the fund raising that other groups are doing at softball. (Plus, it's fun to put people in elf hats and take their pictures!) Perhaps we should make it part of Holiday Market again. We also tossed around ideas to make Holiday Market more

profitable, like selling balloons with various prizes in them. Also something similar to the Nenana Ice Classic, duck races, etc.

Crowdfunding is a possibility for certain things, it has to go through the district, there are certain rules, with lots of hoops to jump through.

It was put forth that we might have more effective fund raising if we first develop an idea for a field trip, get the cost figured out, and THEN do the fund raising specifically for that field trip. This would help the kids feel more of a direct buy-in to the fund raising, as well as allow us to be more specific in why we are trying to earn money, thus getting better results.

In the interest of time, we tabled further discussion of fund raising, but will revisit it with more focus and ideas next time.

Field Trip Ideas

Do we want to do any big field trip planning? We have more than \$3600 available to spend now. We currently have a span of ages, with lots of young students. And we will have a big set of new kindergarteners next year. No specific ideas were developed, but we acknowledged the next time frame for a field trip would be in the fall if we chose that. It will be different with so many in K-2.

Soccer

Rachel interjected that she is willing to step up to make soccer happen next year, basic coaching, setting up practice and game dates, coordinating with other schools, etc. She can't turn them into soccer stars, and will be looking for helpers, but she commits to making it happen.

Community School Updates

Chess is cancelled next week.

The movie showing scheduled for 2pm Sunday will be postponed. Melissa spearheaded it but is not in town currently due to a family emergency.

There will be art camp again, dates are July 31-Aug 4. The price is uncertain now, but will be roughly the same as last year's charge of \$50/student. Available for children who have completed kindergarten.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 12:30pm at the school

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.