



## Cooper Landing School Parent Advisory Committee

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### **PAC Meeting 3.22.2017**

Called to order at 12:33 pm

#### **Roll Call:**

Heather Harrison, Melissa Fish, Susanna LaRock, Virginia Morgan, Laura Johnson, Jessica Larsen, Tommy Gossard, Crystal Rumer, Doug Hayman, Angel Bond

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

A couple of amendments were made: the Snail-a-thon to be discussed as new business, and the food planning meeting for Kasitsna Bay trip to be mentioned.

The agenda was then approved as amended.

#### **Reading and Approval of Minutes (and review of action items):**

Regarding action items from last meeting:

Susanna send out a Crier message regarding the need for more volunteer readers, and that has had some response.

Jessica did contact TBA Theatre about fulfilling the Access Grant. They won't be able to discuss scheduling until late this week or early next. Will continue to follow up and try to get them in the school during our available time frame.

Susanna did send out an email about Kasitsna Bay payments and the food planning meeting – yet to be held on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup>. Payments are due TODAY.

The minutes were approved as written.

#### **Addition of New Members:**

No potential members were present. Kathy and Crystal were welcomed back from their long absences.

#### **Principal's Report:**

Mr. Hayman discussed with us his proposal regarding staffing for next year, seeing as how we are currently projecting 22-23 students enrolled in the fall, which is right on the line for needing two teachers.

Even though 22+ students during the enrollment count period qualifies the school for two teachers officially, the historically fluctuating enrollment numbers in Cooper Landing (students leaving for much or all of the winter, after being counted in October) are likely to discourage the district from contracting

a second teacher. He projects that such a move would be considered economically irresponsible for the district at this time.

He thus has come up with a proposal for next year's staffing that takes into account the shifting enrollment. His idea is to hire a second paraeducator with working hours on a sliding scale determined by a formula based on enrollment.

His initial formula draft is basically the following: for every student enrolled in excess of 16, the school would qualify for an hour (daily) of additional paraeducator staffing. At the end of each month, the new month's schedule for the paraeducator would be based on the past month's enrollment. For example, if the school has 22 students enrolled in October, in November the second paraeducator would be scheduled for 6 hours per day.

It is expected that this type of employment arrangement would be more readily accepted by the district than a set contract, due to our historical fluctuation in numbers. Also, this kind of employment arrangement is already established in the district.

The numbers he uses in this sample formula are not set – he is open to discussion and suggestions. The numbers 16 and 22 are based on numbers already used in the district for staffing at small schools, so they make logical sense to him but are not set in stone. Converting one student to one hour of staffing is just an idea, another ratio may be more appropriate. This is a work in progress still.

He would like to submit a report with this proposal by the end of March, so the district is prepared to react to our enrollment next year. He will reference this meeting in his report and proposal, stating that he consulted with the school Site Council regarding the idea.

The reaction of the PAC/Site Council was overall quite positive, agreeing that it is a well-thought-out idea to propose a sliding-scale paraeducator for the school. Mr. Gossard did request a few days to think about it. He and Mr. Hayman will discuss it in person on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Because the PAC/Site Council has strong concerns about the quality of our children's education and our vested interest in increased staffing, we want to submit a letter along with the proposal, voicing our preferences and concerns. **AI:** Jessica agreed to draft this letter on behalf of the Site Council, after talking with Mr. Gossard (after Mr. Gossard talks to Mr. Hayman on Monday). The PAC/Site Council members will be able to contribute ideas to the drafting of this letter so that it echoes our shared interests.

Mr. Hayman closed his report by stating how impressed he is continually with the quality of the student experience at Cooper Landing School, and more schools need to know about it. The in-classroom education is wonderful, but we bring so much richness to the experience with our out-of-classroom education. He is very pleased to be working with us.

### **Teacher's Report**

March 23: ice fishing with Mike Harpe at 1:15

March 30: fish dissection by Fish & Game at 1:15, Moose Pass will be coming here

April 7: 9am a representative from the Kasitsna Bay camp is coming to answer questions and prepare the kids for trip

April 20, 21, 24, 25, 26: PEAKS testing for grades 3 and up; this is a new test similar to the one attempted last year, the kids have already gone online and done the practice samples

April 27: Debbie Harris, the art specialist, will be coming to work with the students

May 3: kindergarten orientation, potentially 5 kindergarteners coming in next year

May 8-19: the window for a potential artist-in-residence

May 22: Written and Illustrated Author's Tea, followed by kindergarten graduation (Crystal and Melissa were approached to put together the slide show)

May 24: Last day of school, picnic here

Volunteer reader numbers have improved: John Stamatelos comes 3 days a week – he is also on the sub list; Heather Harrison comes on Fridays; Ed and Sandra Holsten are back; Kathy Recken is signed up now.

### **Treasurer Report**

\$8710.27 is currently in the account. The only payment taken out since last month is \$79.85 for seeds. We also received some more ski payments, and payments are coming in for Kasitsna Bay.

### **Snail-A-Thon**

The Snail-A-Thon is on May 20 this year. Carrie Williams has approached the PAC again, expressing her desire to see more involvement and attendance at the Snail-A-Thon. She is a big help with getting it on every year, and is now looking for more organizations to actively take part in the event, make it bigger, rework it somewhat.

A brief discussion of the status of the event ensued, noting that there is rarely if ever enough food, attendance suffers, construction this year will cause problems with the traditional route. But the event is simple to put on, and the PAC members have been happy to help keep the event alive. Some proposed solutions to the noted problems were to get involvement and donations from restaurants for big side dishes, shorten the distance for 2017 to celebrate the new walking path (and avoid construction problems) by making the route only from the Catholic Church to the Baptist Church. (No decisions were made in this discussion, only brainstorming.)

There was some confusion about what Carrie was asking of the PAC with regards to this event. Eventually we concluded that she was asking for our permission to bring in other organizations, expand it and change it somewhat, and wanted our approval of her involvement in this way. We agreed that we support her involvement, are happy to keep our level of responsibility and involvement as a PAC, and we do not feel our toes being stepped on by her efforts.

### **Kasitsna Bay**

The food planning meeting is on Friday, March 24 at 9am.

### **Miscellaneous**

Before the close of the meeting, Kathy asked about the students' involvement in community service. Mr. Gossard responded that they will be helping expand the community garden by building beds, hauling

and mixing dirt, etc. This will occur sometime after the snow melts, perhaps on May 23, the second-to-last day of school. They are also planting flowers for the Community Club and the cemetery. (Susanna noted that they may not have enough flowers growing and might be required to buy some.)

We also discussed the can drive. Anyone can drop off aluminum cans, bagged up, behind the school portable, at any time. They are taken in twice a year. Angel spoke of Princess getting involved in this effort. (Right now Cooper Landing is in the lead.)

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 12:30 pm at the school

**Adjournment at 1:29 pm.**