

Hope School PTO Meeting, held at Hope School

April 1, 2024

Notes taken by: Jeannine Jabaay

In Attendance: Jess Hogan, Jeremy McKibben, Tahnetta Stroh, Lillie Stroh, Lora Airth, Lee Airth, Cindy McKibben, Dawn Hammond, Jeannine Jabaay

Call to order @3:45 pm

Principal report: Cindy reported about building capital improvement: the new carpet in the entryway completed. No grease-vapor laden food can be cooked in the school kitchen, as the hood vent needs to be updated; this will minimally affect the school; also will be putting in an electric igniter at some point which. New counter tops in some of the bathrooms will be replaced (current Formica countertops are cracking/breaking in places). The roof was inspected by the architect/engineer firm to update the school roof.

Senate Bill 140, which included \$680 base student allocation - meaning the District would receive \$680 per student, was passed by the state legislature, vetoed by the governor, then the legislature failed to override the veto. Because the bill didn't ultimately pass, there is a \$13million deficit for the KPBSD - this means that hard conversations at the school board level will take place as things will need to be cut. There will likely be one-time money given, but that amount is not guaranteed; additionally, the one-time funding cannot be added in the KPBSD budget - meaning the budget must be created cutting out the \$13million.

The school district can receive \$1.9 million directly from the borough, so this will be requested.

Additionally, the COVID funds from the federal government were given to the state to distribute, yet some school districts were shorted - including KPBSD. The federal government informed the state that the COVID funds had to be distributed to the borough. The district will receive, at some point, \$5 million from the COVID funds.

Hope School currently has enough student enrollment to ensure two teachers for 2024-2025. If any students leave the school, Cindy "will have to go to bat" to keep the funding for a second teacher.

Cindy met with KMTA and others to find out what we could glean from them. One idea is what was piloted at Cooper Landing and Moose Pass, "Fresh Air Friday," which gave the kids an activity for 4 straight Fridays that was outdoor education. Supporting swimming and skiing/snowboarding are other ideas. Dawn suggested training on trail stewardship, responsible outdoor use, and berry recognition. Based on our previous discussion with KMTA, a grant was written and awarded for the Alaska Railroad to take the kids to Spencer Glacier for a hike. KMTA has shown real interest in partnering with the Hope School, as well as Moose Pass, Whittier and Cooper Landing. KMTA is asking for real numbers of who many would want to participate in the Spencer Glacier hike. This field trip will take place in August 2024.

Voyage School is through the Chugach School district. They do mini-camps for 2 weeks in Anchorage that are open to any school in Alaska. They teach ecology-based courses. They also work to bring in the anthropology of the state (where we've come) to the ecology of the area (where we are going).

Jess asked about the pavilion for "outdoor school," which is sometime in the future. Grants are currently only at \$10,000 max, which would not be enough to cover the materials.

The shop and construction classes will be available as an elective in 2024-25 once the machines are all taken care of. These will be available to the junior and senior high students.

A community member donated \$1,000 to the students towards PE; this will be used towards climbing equipment.

Teacher report: Jeremy gave a report. Second graders are learning about the War of 1812; third grade is learning about Magellan, and fourth grade is learning about the American Revolution. Science: insects, nutrition and digestion. State testing is next week and the end of the year MAPS testing is coming up next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Treasurer report: Financial report available for meeting was only through February. Jess Hogan updated balances on April 2, 2024 to reflect additional revenue.

Current balance as of April 1, 2024: ~~\$10,450.66~~ \$11,416.66

New revenue: Total new revenue in 2023-24: ~~\$4,856.65~~ (\$5872.65); this does not include the spaghetti feed (likely raised just under \$2,000) or the readathon money (\$ being turned in this week)

New revenue since last meeting: Spaghetti feed, but numbers are not available at this meeting. UPDATED 4/2/24: \$966

Expenses: Still haven't paid for skiing; waiting for numbers from Alyeska.

Student report: Lillie stated that the high schoolers are currently working on speeches for Speech Class (literature). For science, they are working on Biology in a new chapter. Everyone is doing their separate Math assignments. High school students are working on research of separate people in history; Lillie is researching Oliver Cromwell. Middle Schoolers just finished their chapter on Greek history. In Art, the students are working on hand-stitching (pretty fun!); anticipating working on advanced embroidery or sculptures with recycled materials. PE is going to be hockey this week.

Old business:

Readathon results: the readathon ended just this weekend, and it looks like the kids will be having a pizza party (they had to read 15,000 pages, and not all pages are accounted for and the kids are just under that already). Jeannine will pick up the gift cards from Barnes and Noble. Jess will be in charge of arranging the pizza.

Cooking class date - April 9th: doing Italian food with homemade pasta.

Classroom snacks: some of the snacks sit awhile; kids like the meat sticks and fruit snacks

Alyeska - Last day April 3rd; still waiting on the cost for this. Dawn will email the contact person to get those numbers next week after the school trips are over.

New business:

Book scholarship: Jess presented an idea about giving a college scholarship of \$500 towards college books for graduating seniors. Jeremy will look into the idea of this. Cindy expressed concern that we should be sure that this isn't at the cost of having younger students participate in extracurricular activities. Jeannine mentioned that fundraisers should be regular and goaled at \$500/each... this will keep a healthy balance.

Fundraiser:

Sweets and Starts: baked goods and plant sales - last day of school, May 16, 2024

Last day of ski/snowboarding lessons is this Wednesday, Apr 3, 2024 . Please bring snacks to share with the other schools and the instructors.

Masonic Outstanding Student Award will be announced the day of graduation (this is coming back).

High School graduation: coming up on May 14, 2024. PTO needs to donate \$ for the donations.

Motions:

- Jeremy moved to donate \$300 for the pizza party for the Readathon. Tahnetta seconded. Discussion. All approved.
- Jeremey moved to donate \$300 for the high school graduation for Landon and Tristan, as well as the kindergarteners, Aaden and Everly. Jess seconded the motion. Discussion. All approved.

Next meeting scheduled May 6, 2024

Meeting adjourned @ 4:49 pm