

Abernethy Community Meeting

Date: 3/16/2017

**This meeting was live streamed on the Abernethy Homeroom Facebook page.*

Agenda:

1) Call to Order – 6:14pm call to order, Jim Kohler

2) Approval of Minutes

- a) Lisa Delaney made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the last community meeting; Marian seconds.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously.

3) Public Comment – Community members are welcomed to sign up to speak for up to 2 minutes each regarding issues, questions, concerns, or feedback. [Sign up here](#) or immediately prior to the meeting start time in the auditorium. Public Comment period will last up to 15 minutes.

4) Officer & Committee Reports

- a) Auction results – It was a great event.
 - i) We made a little more money this year than last. Paddle raise raised more, silent and live auctions a little less.
 - ii) Committee is being formed for next year [please contact a PTA officer if you are interested in joining the committee]. Next year the event will be at Left Bank on February 10th. Janna Wells [Abernethy parent] will be the auctioneer next year again.
- b) Fun Run update – Things are falling into place, sheets have gone home.
 - i) Last year we had an amazing turn out. It was the highest earning spring run yet, so our goal this year is a little more conservative in case last year was an outlier. But we hope the turn out is the same.
 - ii) The dunk tank will return as the incentive. Heather, Ms. Romanaggi, etc. will be candidates.
 - iii) Please come for the 4/5th grade run if you can; usually the turn out for them is lower.
- c) PTA Board Recruitment for 2017-2018 update – several positions open.
 - i) The positions are listed online now – go to the supportabernethy.org site > PTA section to learn more. We'd love to have multiple people slugging it out for each role. Encourage everyone to get involved. Please read descriptions and feel free to talk to a current member.

Q: Is there an online pledge functionality for fun run?

A: We can do payments on Shopify (the Supportabernethy site), but paper only for pledges. We'd like to be able to move everything online, but it will take a volunteer developer to make that happen.

5) Unfinished Business - N/A

6) New Business

- a) PTA Standing Rule change proposal; VOTE.
- i) Read standing rule proposal and Jim gave the background on why this was proposed: the PTA wants to be ethical with any surplus funds after fundraising efforts and expenses are paid. The idea is to have an emergency fund if we need it- so that's what we'd establish with any surplus.
 Q: Where'd the percentages come from? What would the numbers be this year?
 A: Lisa Delaney interviewed other PTA's and found these percentages to be a rule of thumb and what they are currently doing.
 Q: This emergency fund doesn't exist now?
 A: No.
 - ii) Kirsten Isaacson makes a **MOTION** to approve the proposed emergency fund amendment to the standing rules. Rene Hendricks seconds.
VOTE: The motion is unanimously passed.
- b) PTA Board position change: renaming the Fundraising Chair position to eCommerce Manager; VOTE.
- i) This rename is being proposed to reflect current duties of this board position- essentially this role manages the supportabernethy site and all the commerce exchanges there.
 - ii) Leah Woods makes a **MOTION** to rename the current Fundraising Chair position to eCommerce Chair. Marian seconds.
VOTE: The motion passes unanimously.
- c) Fundraising update
- i) Jim gave a brief update: TDL and AA both did great, Auction exceeded expectations, Fun Run is underway so once that is over we'll have the full picture of where we are for funds.
- d) School Update from Principal Heather Hull
- i) Hopefully we will know more in next week.
 - ii) 522 kids are forecasted next year (sheet on district website).
 - iii) We lost 3.85 FTE, including the AP, there will be a reduction to 1.5 in the office, classified FTE was converted to use in library, so we lost part of library, losing .5 of a counselor, lost a full classroom even with prediction of 84 K students, same as this year. We NEED MORE REG FORMS! We had cap at 25 students, now it's 28 per K class. Hopefully can get that class back with more registrations. Also lost 1/3 of a teacher. Requirement for PE dropped to .5, library requirement is .5 as well.
 - iv) FTE not on list: 2.25 FTE was provided by the PTA this year, .5 by school board after the school year started.
 - v) Good that fundraising is going well to add some of what we've lost back.
 - vi) Recap of site council survey priorities from respondents – highest priority given to teacher, instructional support.
 - vii) Unknown for foundation funds... so that will come later.
 - viii) Looking at class size... we'll have 3 classes per grade, plus 1, so we're decided where that extra 4th class should go.
 Q: Seems like SKG isn't cutting it anymore, not the core of the school anymore.
 Q: Isn't GAP funding garden now?
 A: GAP is funding daytime garden, GAP teachers, and contributing additional profit for PTA use. But all PTA contributions go to one funding pot for allocation by Heather.
 Q: I have a 3rd grade kid; what would grade mixing look like? Have been crossing fingers for a 4th teacher. I volunteer and thinking of additional kids in that class is scary.
 A: Split classes can work better for different grades, for some it may reduce class size and spread out options for class groups. This is a bi-annual budget. 1 class per grade would be

mixed... is what they are looking at. There is a concern about equity since only a subset of students per grade would be affected.

Q: Would they loop?

A: Not sure. Ideally that would be the case.

- ix) Schools around us are looking at 34 students per class, we're looking at 28. Don't think we'll hit 30.
- x) Because this wouldn't be philosophical shift, and there are challenges with CCSS, we haven't introduced split classes here. We haven't done it here for the reasons just given and because it doesn't work ideally with numbers, it'll be lopsided.
- xi) Class size target range: grades 1-4: 20-30, grades 4-12: 20-34 (district guidelines)
Q: Is this a proposal or done budget?
A: This budget is based on getting \$8.1m from state, right now the district is only at \$7.9m. The state budget gives \$18m in cuts to PPS, for no cuts the state budget would need to be \$8.4b. State hole is pretty deep...
- e) AP is gone for sure, but what's our net staff loss will be, I'm not sure yet because of salary info. Probably not going to put back to K. Question is where will we feel the loss- not sure yet- library? PE? Don't want to feel it with class size, or Instructional Support. We're also losing .5 Special Ed – if we could get to 2 people in Instructional Support, that would really help stressed classes. Lots of kids are on the line, not qualifying for special ed, but not up to the level we want them, that's where IS comes in and is really successful.
- f) Transfers pretty locked down now.

7) Announcements

- a) Volunteer info night scheduled
 - i) 5/4 at 7pm at Leah Woods' house. Come for drinks and learn about volunteer info for the PTA Board and all volunteer needs at school.
- b) Susan Beal – banner Wed: All Are Welcome Here.
 - i) After school a group will take hand prints. Welcome message. Learned Hosford would like one too. I'd like to have a PTA liaison for neighborhood schools.... Thank you for creating the community.
- c) Plant Sale coming!
 - i) Watch for forms from Jim.
- d) Chili Cookoff – and Earth Day garden event 4/20.

- 8) **Open Forum** – *If you would like to give a presentation to the community, contact abernethyptasecretary@gmail.com to be added to the Open Forum agenda. Open Forum also allows meeting attendees to ask questions or follow up on items discussed during the course of the meeting.*

9) Adjournment

- a) Leah Woods makes a MOTION to adjourn, Lisa seconds.
- b) **VOTE:** The motion passes unanimously.

Highlights denote items requiring follow up at the next meeting.

NOTE: These minutes are provided for review and distribution but have not yet been approved by membership.

Leah Woods
Abernethy PTA Secretary