

Abernethy Community Meeting

*Date: 4/27/2017, Meeting at 9am***

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

Agenda:

1) Call to Order – 9:02am, Jim Kohler

2) Approval of Minutes –

- a) Kirsten Isaacson makes a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the last Community Meeting, Abby Bokman seconds.

VOTE: The motion passes 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) Fun Run results

- i) Raised \$43,180 – was a great result.
- ii) Next year it won't be so close to the auction.

Q: There was an odd website glitch when giving over \$100 donation, need to make sure that isn't the case next year.

b) PTA Board Recruitment for 2017-2018 update –

- i) Open positions are online at supportabernethy.org, still have many open positions without nominations – see attached sheet.

5) Unfinished Business - N/A

6) New Business

a) School Update from Principal Heather Hull

- i) Safe Routes to School is asking for feedback on any barriers you face getting to school (maps and forms were made available during the meeting for attendees).
- ii) 76 Kinders registered now, with 2 of which in the lottery. First year with 3 K classes in many years; there will be approx 28 kids in each class. We still need over 84 registrants for additional class. Hopefully will get more after lottery results are in- should be within 2 weeks.
- iii) There will be a 1/2 and 3/4 split class and 3 grade-level classes for each grade next year.
- iv) School admin and staff is asking for info from parents regarding peer relationships to make sure teachers can create balanced classrooms; averaging 26-27 kids per class right now. Sheets won't ask for teacher/class type preference. Parent input will be focused on peer interactions only.

Q: Who is teaching at different grade levels?

A: We won't share that- puts undo stress on teachers with balancing classes and getting parent input.

Q: How to balance 3rd having lots of field trips and 4th not in the split class?

A: It'll be one class and 3/4 will have mostly 4th grade students so it'll be mostly 4th grade (current 1st grade is larger than current K) curriculum likely. Then next year numbers are flipped so it will be more 3rd grade curriculum.

Q: How does the flip work (with curriculum)?

A: It's mostly an issue with the social studies curriculum that will flip-flop year to year; teachers in splits are able to teach the kids and are not married to any one curriculum. Also we need to look at the emotional component more heavily in the splits- those students that are more able to handle that kind of environment will be placed there.

Q: Oldest had blended, but all classes were blended so they moved to different teachers for different topics.

A: There is some overlap, so we may be able to do this.

Q: Could we disperse kids if the numbers of small side of split are too off balance? And not do splits next year?

A: We did that this year and got a lot of feedback that that wasn't ideal, and we don't like to move kids once teachers are assigned. We assign at the end of the year so there isn't stress over the summer.

Q: Monday Mailer funding question. Garden funding is prioritized same as pe in what we're seeing here, but it wasn't that way in the survey. How is garden funded?

A: PE was supposed to go FT by state mandate, had planned on additional funding for that which did not come through. We are funding half of garden next year, probably 2, 1 month cycles, spending about \$20K for daytime instruction which is much less than increasing any of the other specials. E.g. To add another .1, to bring PE up to 3 school days (see numbers in attached meeting materials).

Q: If garden includes science and we're reducing garden, where does that science get covered? In the class?

A: Elementary is supposed to get new standards this year. But we're not certain when these will come. Classroom teachers are responsible for teaching science curriculum.

We are looking at art residencies for next year, with open gym could do dance now or rent to other gym teachers. Right Brain Initiative grant funds the whole school residency, some classes have booked artists for that.

Q: My kids miss the more traditional pe – music and pe seem the same this year.

A: Should we have kids vote on site council for specials priority? Maybe we can next year- vote on specials.

Q: Could we get another \$40K to increase PE?

A: Very unlikely. Fun Run was last fundraiser and it raised that much. The PTA has committed almost \$300K for 2.38 FTE so it is already stretched.

Q: Are there parent volunteers to keep the library open?

A: For check out, yes.

Q: Could potential state funding from new business tax benefit us?

A: Possibly but timing and surrounding surplus budgets make it risky.

Q: Could teachers do PE (like when we were kids)?

A: Teachers find gym time very helpful, and they will have access to the gym 1/week with half-time PE.

Q: Could we increase volunteerism with student teachers?

A: There is a national teacher shortage – PPS has a short sub list. We do have 4 student

teachers that come in to help with tutoring.

7) Announcements

- a) Join us for Volunteer Info Night! 5/4 7pm (see Monday Mailer for location)
- b) Stella Taco and Eb & Bean Dine Out Fundraiser 5/2
- c) Congratulations to the Garden program and thanks to Jenn Jensen – we won a grant award!

8) Speaker: Postponed

9) **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.*

- a) Update on State budget and calls to action.
 - i) PTA's have action campaigns to keep state legislature on track for funding ed. Please call your relatives in other parts of the state to push their reps/senators.

- b) Update from DBRAC: district boundary review process – *Postponed for length.*

10) Adjournment

- a) Heather Hull makes **MOTION** to adjourn, Lisa Delaney seconds.
VOTE: The motion passes unanimously; meeting adjourned at 10:05am.

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