

Abernethy Community Meeting

Date: 10/20/2016

Agenda:

- 1) **Call to Order** – 6:04 pm, Jim Kohler
- 2) **Approval of Minutes** - Beth Cavanaugh made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the last community meeting, Kirsten Isaacson seconded the motion. **VOTE:** Unanimous approval.
- 3) **Public Comment – NEW THIS MONTH!** *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.*
 - a) **Joyce Chow** – Courageous Conversations About Race. Joyce gave an intro to the group and description for what they work on together. Joyce invited all community members to join them at their monthly meetings at school.
 - b) **Scott Bailey** – DBRAC member, community member. Was asked for brief update on the DRAC process and responded that it's up in the air. The committee was going to hit the ground running to evaluate N & NE feeder patterns in August, then district admin changes occurred so things were delayed.
 - c) **Beth Cavanaugh** – DBRAC PTA appointee. Abernethy community members should feel free to speak with Beth if they have any questions about the DBRAC process.
- 4) **Officer & Committee Reports**
 - a) Annual Appeal
 - i) The appeal will run Nov 1-22nd, in that time there are 4 non-school days, so it's a pretty constant presence during the month of Nov.
 - ii) The class with 100% of their green envelopes back first will get a prize.
 - iii) The goal for all fundraisers throughout the year is \$555/student.
 - iv) The Annual Appeal team is looking for volunteer to help this year and take over. There hasn't been much response yet. This effort is time-intensive, but it's a significant fundraiser for the school and it's a concentrated period of time.
 - b) Battle of the Books
 - i) Battle of the Books is for grades 3-5. There are 16 books across genres that teams of 4-5 kids will read for the competition. A coach for each team guides activities over a few months. At the end of Jan/early Feb there are battles at the school. Each team battles in 2 rounds, then if they win, they will battle a third.
 - ii) One lead coach needs to register their team online and pay the \$25 fee once the team is established. Registration is open now and ends Nov 14th, due to reporting requirements to the state organizers.
 - iii) The Support Abernethy site has a lot of info on OBOB, including a blog and other resources- look under Events.
 - iv) We will need judge volunteers for competitions, non-coaches are best.

- v) There will be something for 2nd grade during the library time – it provides good prep and exposure so they feel ready to participate in the full competition the next year.

5) New Business

- a) Election: Beth Cavanaugh is nominated for a new Co-Chair position on the PTA Board Communications Committee; member vote to approve or reject is requested
 - i) Lisa Delaney made a **MOTION** to elect Beth Cavanaugh as Co-Chair of Communications for the PTA Board. Sally Gibson seconded. **VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.
- b) School Update from Principal Heather Hull
 - i) Hiring a .5 instructional support position; currently looking for candidates. The central office is not posting the position at this time, so the search has just been personal networking right now. The school really needs someone experienced who can jump in with minimal coaching.
 - (1) The position will provide reading and math support/differentiation.
 - (2) Would like this person in the afternoons when K-1 literacy & 2nd grade math occurs.
 - ii) Character parade is on 10/31 at 2:15. Probably weather-dependent, maybe parade in the halls if it's rainy.
 - iii) Lunch line is really slow, so we really need to practice with our kids so they can get through the line quickly. Barbara has been working with the kids again. This new system was required due to a software change (the cards are no longer supported by the tech vendor who provides the lunch system).
 - iv) Garden would love volunteers. Please contact Julie Welch if you are available to volunteer anytime.
 - v) Staff is trying to build their book collections – always feel free to donate your books to the teachers/school.

6) Program/Speaker

- a) Measure 97 campaign representatives to present
 - i) The No side did not get back to us.
 - ii) Kirsten Isaacson and Sharon Bernstein presented on behalf of the Yes on 97 group.
 - iii) This measure is endorsed by the OR PTA, though the Abernethy PTA has not taken a formal stand.
 - iv) Before Measure 5 30% of funding for education came from state, after Measure 5 70% comes from state due to the restructuring of property taxes.
 - v) The measure (97) will raise taxes on large corporations: 2.5% on the amount over \$25 million per year. This is not a sales tax, it is a tax on corporations similar to how we pay income tax.
 - vi) This will impact 1% of businesses in OR, and of the 1% affected, 88% of those are based out of state. OR has lowest business taxes in the country. This rev would make a significant difference for us, but even so we'll still be middle of the road on ed/health/senior spending.
 - vii) You can find more information on both sides at noon97.com, voteyeson97.org
 - viii) This tax is deductible on the federal level, so it doesn't come as a straight added expense to any corporation.

Q: Do we know why low-margin businesses (e.g. grocery stores) weren't exempted?

A: We think that was a combination of trying to keep the measure simple (initiative process), and accounting for how the system works now. Most of these companies are not OR only, so they already pay higher taxes in those other states and prices are the same (i.e. so the argument that prices will go up is faulty).

Q: Funds will go to Early ed, healthcare, senior services. Do we know what it will bring to PPS?

A: It's expected to bring \$3 billion to the state. Conservatively that would bring \$100 million for PPS – to put that in perspective, for \$6 million we could add a week on the school year for the district.

The Yes on 97 group is working to get the measure passed, and then the focus will turn to holding Salem reps responsible for spending appropriately.

- 7) **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) **Site Council was today** – They discussed homework strategies, and talked about prioritizing what staff feels are the benefits of homework. The group is looking for input opportunities from others. The annual survey of the community will be sent in Jan/Feb right before staffing decisions so that community feedback is used when making those decisions with budget along with other pieces of information. Next Site Council meeting is in January.
- b) **When does tech time start?** 2nd grade student has relayed to parent that they haven't started yet. Mr. Day says: Quinn is starting that in library, not sure when; tech time should be expanding to classrooms as the year goes on too (in second grade).
- 8) **Adjournment** – Kirsten Isaacson made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Leah Woods seconded. **VOTE:** motion passed unanimously. Adjourned 7:00pm.

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 the general membership.

Leah Woods
Abernethy PTA Secretary