

Abernethy Community Meeting

Date: 1/19/2017

Agenda:

1) Call to Order - 6:07pm by Jim Kohler

2) Approval of Minutes

- a) Lisa Delaney makes a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Kirsten Isaacson seconds the motion.

VOTE: The motion 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.*

- a) **No comments**

4) Officer & Committee Reports

a) Annual Appeal Results

- i) We have \$70K in the bank, not counting monthly recurring donations still to come in. Participation was down compared to last year for envelope return and donations, but overall the appeal was successful.

Q: Was there a goal?

A: \$105K was the goals, which is a bit more than last year to cover higher costs each year.

Typically that's how fundraising goals are set: looking at what was done last year and improving on that. However, our fundraising goal is more directed toward the overall number for the year, and that's spread across our primary fundraisers. With recurring donations this year, we believe we are forecasting approx \$95K total, so slightly under goal.

b) Auction Update

- i) At Castaway again this year on March 10.

c) Open PTA Positions 2017-2018 – Nominations open!

- i) Reviewed current open list – please contact PTA Co-President if you'd like to volunteer to chair a committee and/or nominate yourself or someone else for an officer position which will be elected in May.

d) Other: Vote for PTA Board Finance Team Billing Specialist: Julie Johnsen, nominated

Lisa Delaney makes a **MOTION** to elect Julie Johnson as billing specialist. Rene Hendricks seconded.

VOTE: The motion passes unanimously.

5) Unfinished Business - N/A

6) New Business

a) School Update from Principal Heather Hull

- i) School survey results

- (1) There were 173 responses, most from 2nd grade (this info will be in a Monday Mailer as well).
 - (2) Programs ended up rated with about equal priority.
 - (3) If we had to fund only one thing, it would be additional teachers (PE not included in this rating since it's mandatory full time next year, and music not included in this question due to arts tax coverage). Overwhelming response on this question.
 - (4) We are currently forecasting for 522 students next year – this is low especially at K (84 is the projection and we're usually closer to 90); we right now have 522 students.
- ii) District staffing update
- (1) No information yet- staffing info was bumped to end of the month; we are assuming no additional funding and that funding will likely be cut.
 - Q: What is the bottom line budget number?
 - A: \$2.8M for general ed, Special Ed and ESL were \$500K this year.
 - Q: Is there snow day make up info?
 - A: Heather was digging for information today. To the question of why only 3 days of make up have been proposed, there are lots of construction projects on the schedule which may be putting significant constraints on options in addition to summer programs and more... conversations are still occurring. Teacher in-service days are there, but the district is looking for balance for teacher time.
 - Q: Is there a proposal to use spring break?
 - A: Not sure, we heard that on the news, but there is no definitive info from district
 - Q: If the K class ended up higher than forecast, where would the additional funding come from if we wanted more staffing? PTA?
 - A: Kindergarten funding is separate. But additional funding options for other programs may come to PTA.
 - Q: Is there still a conversation around structuring split classes next year?
 - A: Yes, this could happen; right now the split numbers are lop sided and the district and common core curriculum isn't very friendly to that set up. So it's not off the table, but it's about the best management of FTE funds, and that trade off [split classes] may not be it. Doing it for number resolution isn't the best, doing it with long term purpose can work.
 - Q: Supt search? Are they seeking any info from admins?
 - A: Heather participated in the principal group that gave feedback on what they wanted to see in a candidate. Not sure how public the search will end up. Missed a meeting today, so don't have much info right now.

7) Announcements

- a) None.

8) Program/Speaker

- a) Speaker: Representative Rob Nosse visiting for community Q & A
 - i) Measure 97 didn't pass so the state government is putting out budget with new rev ideas (a lot related to OHP) that have to be approved by the legislature. The state is \$1.8B short for current service levels. Shortfall comes from 3 buckets: OR is an expansion state, 400K people signed up that didn't have insurance before- 1 million on OHP= 25% of population; Outdoor school for whole state and CTE – measure 98 – will cost \$300M; PERS current retirees – need \$400M to shore up retirement benefits. Tried to reduce this, but in court found the reduction to be unconstitutional. Don't think there's a legal way to reduce this

enough to make a difference.

- ii) Ways and Means put out budget today with \$1.8B cut. If Measure 97 had passed we believe we would have had enough funds to maintain service levels.

Q: Are there people and businesses at the table together trying to reach a resolution?

A: Labor unions, local big businesses are meeting and starting to have delicate conversations to figure out how to meet in the middle. Perhaps if voters see the pain, then maybe we will vote for taxes that will give the state the revenue it needs.

Q: What do I do as a progressive constituent living in SE (full of other progressives) to affect change?

A: Joining the PTA is a good step to work with other PTA's in more moderate or balanced districts. This exposure can make voting for taxes not so taboo. Letters really get noticed today- mass emails are so common- so write a letter to your reps.

Q: How much of the current budget is the hole?

A: 8% of overall budget is the \$1.8B hole.

Q: Who bears the cost of the 400K people who might be kicked off OHP as a result?

A: If these people lose coverage it will go back to the old way, so county health services, property taxes, hospital cost go up. Hospital charity care budgets have been cut in half since 2014 since more people have insurance, so if those budgets need to increase again due to uninsured people, then hospital costs go up. It is more likely that OHP benefits will be reduced than people kicked off the plan entirely.

Q: Do we have to have a balanced budget?

A: Yes, we are constitutionally mandated to have a balanced budget. No printing new money, borrowing, etc.

- 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) Q: Any update on the unreliable bus situation?

A: Not enough – First Student is the contractor for bus services. There is a bus driver shortage. We've been assured that there is someone to drive now, there will be gas in the bus, etc.

Q: What about the driver who was smoking at the door of the bus in front of kids?

A: Had not heard about that. Please report officially and we'll follow up with transportation services.

10) Adjournment

- a) Kirsten Isaacson makes a **MOTION** to adjourn, Beth Cavanaugh seconds.

VOTE: The motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:30pm.

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