

Jefferson General PTA Meeting Summary September 11, 2017

Guest Speakers from Pullman School Board- Superintendent Bob Maxwell:

Discussion of what the school board is, what it does. Each School is represented on the board by one member of the Board, which rotate every couple years. Jefferson's representative this year is Karl Johanson. School Board Goals: Increase engagement, Attend 1st PTA/PTO/Booster meetings of the year, Act as liaison to staff and parents. Board Members serve on several committees on local, regional, and state levels in addition to serving on the board and working.

JES has an active PTA that does a lot for its school. It creates a lot of educational opportunities for its students. Jefferson Staff also implements great programs which emphasize safety and support the whole child in addition to the Curriculum.

Index Rating is essentially a school report card. It includes scores for Proficiency and Growth, each based on a 10 point scale: Proficiency measures how well children are meeting standard, Growth measures changes in academic success from year to year, i.e. scoring a 1 one year and then next scoring 2 or 3. Jefferson Scores for 2016 – Red (or lowest category). More focus will be given in the Math category, as these scores are especially low. The district is providing additional training from an outside source, a teacher on special assignment will be working on additional programs to improve these scores across the district.

For more information, feel free to reach out to Bob Maxwell and his team with questions and/or ideas.

For more information on Jefferson's index scores visit: <http://eds.ospi.k12.wa.us/WAI/IndexReport/dropdown>

Principal's Report: (Craig Nelson)

Great to see so many people here! It's been a great start to the year. DIBBELS testing took place last week, wrapping up today. It provides a baseline for the children to be able to measure progress in their learning. Title I went through a big change over the summer. Previously Jefferson was a Targeted Title I school, meaning that extra assistance was given to targeted groups of students. Now Jefferson is a School Wide Title I school, meaning extra assistance can be given to all students. Craig put out a call for volunteers to help teachers with the banners outside their classrooms. He said that they help tell the kids that they belong here at JES, helps them feel included.

Treasurer's Report: (Brandy Wiser)

There were a few checks that cleared in July that were accounted for in June. 53 members have already paid dues for the current school year, with a few more received tonight. There was a question on when the budgets for clubs and activities would be set for the year, would it be after the fundraiser? Meg confirmed that this would be preferable so that we would know if we could increase budgets where needed at that point.

PTA Overview:

Membership- Individual membership is \$12, Joint is \$20. $\frac{3}{4}$ of dues come back to the PTA. Parents should join to support the work that the PTA does. Membership goal this year remains 150 members. PTA has come a long way since she first started with the JES PTA with her oldest when they struggled to get 25 members.

Open/Vacant Committees- On the back of the agenda, all the highlighted committees that are listed are in need of a chair. If we don't find a chair for those activities, they won't happen this year. Our theme for this year is "We are building a Community, can you help?" Some of these opportunities do not take a lot of time and/or can be done from home at your convenience. You do not need to work on or help with everything. Meg asked those present to tell your friends and spread the word so that we can get these filled.

Fundraiser- Currently in need of a chair, but for now this is being run by a committee. The fundraiser is completely Donation-Based, meaning that kids do not have to sell anything. This year it will run from Sept. 29th – Oct. 10, with a kick off assembly on Sept. 28th. It is the same set up as last year so each student who registers will have a website that can be shared via social media or email. There will be a set of "coupons" for reaching certain milestones, starting with receiving a prize just for registering. Grand prize will again be a pool party, with pizza and drinks supplied, and Principal Nelson doing a cannon ball into the pool.

Box Tops- Fall collection will take place September 25th-29th. Always looking for volunteers to help cut and count box tops.

Kids Night Out/Movie Nights- Had the first Movie Night last week. It was very successful, there were 72 people in attendance! They showed Monster's University. There is a need to clarify the difference between Kids Night Out and Movie Night. Movie Night is a free event with snacks available for purchase. Parents need to stay with their kids for Movie Nights. Kid's Night Out is a separate event that has an upfront charge and childcare is provided. This is currently in need of a chair.

Spaghetti Feed- This is a fundraiser for 5th grade camp. Responsibility for running it is passed between each school every 2 years. Jefferson was responsible for it last year and this year. If you are a 5th grade parent it is in your best interest for this event to happen. There are some things with this that need to start happening NOW so we need a Chair ASAP!

Food Pantry- Last year Jefferson's program served 46 kids. Linhda Sagen, who is no longer a Jefferson Parent, chaired this program last year and is still currently chairing but would like a co-chair that could help coordinate the JES distribution. Launch of the program for this year is set for Oct. 6th. By then the forms will have gone out and hopefully be back. There is no shortage of people willing to help pay to feed children but there is always a need for more volunteers to do the leg work of distribution.

Committee Updates:

Art Show: (vacant) – Spring Event, no update currently.

Art Docent: (Heather Carter) – Essentially the program consists of an artist comes in to the classroom, teaches and art lesson, and then does a project with the kids. Heather has been hard at work getting everything coordinated with the college professors and students so they will be doing most of the heavy lifting. However, if you have a desire to volunteer and want to get into your child's classroom for this let her know and she will make arrangements. Kick-off is set for the 1st week of October.

Book Fair: (Brian Edwards) – The Spring Book Fair was awesome! It may have been a record. The Fall book fair will have a Western Theme and will be held during conference.

Carnival: (Laura Winder) - There was some discussion about the talent show portion as needing additional assistance to help organize the kids.

Chess Club: (Christy McCloy) – Chess Club is very popular. There are routinely over 100 kids so we are always in need of volunteers. However, volunteering is easy since the kids are always sitting down playing chess. It is mostly helping with snacks that are provided.

Green Team: (Ericka Young & Kelli Cooper) – We are wrapping up the paperwork to officially be certified a Washington Green School. This year we will focus on Water. Our first meeting is on September 14th. Future meetings will be held the 2nd Thursday of the month.

JES T-shirts: (Megan Brannon) – Looking into new design for this year, but no additional update.

Staff Appreciation: (Jaclyn Gotch & Ashley Herridge) – Monday before school started we provided grab and go snacks for the teachers, which were much appreciated. There will be a surprise for the teachers this month.

Announcements:

- Officer positions can only be held by someone for 2 years and this is Meg's 2nd year as President. If you are interested in becoming an officer, now is a great time to shadow.
 - Main PTA project for the year: We would like to make an amphitheatre- style outdoor classroom over by the greenhouse. It would include a bee highway garden and school veggie garden spaces.
 - 2 new teachers that may need some extra assistance getting some materials for their classrooms. Meg asked that the teachers in attendance let them know that we will give them an additional \$250 on top of their mini grants to get things that they need, we just need a quick proposal from them on what they will be buying with it.
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