

Manz Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019

Attendance: Sarah Stafford, Sara Johnson, Carin Keyes, Winnie Doxie, Kimberlee Winkelmann, Lindsay Pohlen, Vanessa Moessner, Kristi Mulock, fundraising, Julie Laleman, Heather Grant

I. Treasurer's Report

- Checking: \$12,214.32 (with cookie dough money \$6800 to reconcile cookie dough funds)
- Regular savings: \$24,766.36
- Playground savings: \$7,922.79 (there are a few more donations, not deposited yet of \$500, \$1000, and \$5000).
 - A family gave \$250 to PTA for playground and Mayo matched \$250 but the match went to the school district not PTA. Will reconcile that when needed.

II. Dr. Hardebeck here to present.

-Family Advisory Council: Should get minutes to us by our representatives. Mrs. Grant will check into how we can get these minutes sent to the PTA. Darren Hollenbeck, Rory Borsheim are our representatives from Manz.

- Meets 1st Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm Administration Building

-Last council meeting, the group talked about what they are looking for as a superintendent. Looking for someone who is a good communicator and good with families. Find different ways to meet students' needs etc.

-Plan is to post position next week. Take applications through 2nd or 3rd week in January. Initial confidential interviewing, then announce finalists to public. Will have ways for the public to learn about the candidates. Must have a candidate named before the election in April.

-Eau Claire has come a long way in the last 8 years and there will be a lot of great candidates. Eau Claire Community is generous and helps the children of Eau Claire.

-We are closing achievement gaps and have a balanced budget.

-Programs: Spanish immersion, equine program,

-Challenges: difficulty finding quality teachers, often hire back retirees as long-term subs which is helpful.

-Horizon: Referendum projects: Northwoods windows this spring (on time and on budget). Will probably have another referendum regarding South Middle as well as Roosevelt Elementary refurbishment and updates of school building. Proposal from

Solar group and anonymous citizens at North and Memorial. Looking at overcrowding at southside schools: expansion or new schools possibly. Federal legislation pending for full day program for 4K/3K.

-There is a vacancy on the School Board currently. Can go to the website and fill out an application by answering questions. At the last December meeting the applicants will be questioned and vote. Term good through April election, then can decide if they want to continue for the next term.

Questions from PTA meeting attendees:

1. Were there any themes that came up when choosing a superintendent at open houses? They had 3 community forums as well as going to most schools and get feedback. Themes: communication, community outreach, family engagement (into school in a meaningful way), collaboration and trust-building. Professional collaboration was a topic as well.
2. Is recruitment of teachers an issue (and should the superintendent have skills in this area)? Yes, it is important to find diverse people/minorities for teachers/staff to help people feel like they are part of the school community.
3. Would like to see grandparents be able to be more connected to the school, i.e. volunteer, or getting newsletter etc. This is a challenge because a person must be connected to a student as a parent or guardian. Can find information on facebook, twitter, or Instagram.
4. Some parents are looking to be more involved in the school if we could invite the families in for events (i.e. music programs, veterans day program, etc). This may help increase PTA participation. At Manz, there is no room for people of the community to participate. This is due to increased enrollment as well as decreased space. Is there an option to use partnership sites? I.e. Peace Church. Yes although there may be staffing issues.

-Feel free to contact Dr. Hardebeck if you have any questions or suggestions.

III. Accountability Report Card: Heather Grant

- Publicly released today November 12, 2019
- Why is this important? To help parents understand how schools are doing. ECASD overall score: 70.5/100 3 stars, meets expectations
Criteria: student achievement, (calculated through tests i.e. forward test) district growth (showing changes from grade to grade on testing) closing gaps (using demographic groups and comparing them to the majority, students with IEP/disabilities and low socioeconomic students) on-track and postsecondary readiness (3rd grade reading scores and attendance rate).
- Manz results: 3 stars 69.7/100 meets expectations

School growth (compare same kids across time) and closing gaps (comparing two different groups) lower than state score.

Math scores are significantly higher than reading scores.

- Percentage weight dependent on how many kids are on free/reduced lunches.

-There is a debate about the value of the tool, but it is helpful to identify trends for the school.

IV. Fundraising: Sara Johnson

- \$4887 Cookie Sales, about \$5887.15 with online orders.
- Will keep everything updated to ensure everyone knows how much money has been raised and how much is still needed.
- Sent out 60 letters to businesses within the school boundaries.
- Getting ready for “make-your-mark” in December.
- All fundraisers are for general purposes with a goal to purchase a playground.
- January the committee will be looking into getting information about bulbs sale.

V. Upcoming Events:

Evening movie: March 10: Wonder (1hr 53 min) 6pm start

Possibly provide popcorn or snacks

May do a Saturday movie in December with cider and donuts, consider drop and shop.

VI. Cookie Dough pick up Nov 19, 4-6pm

VII. Adjourn