



P A R E N T T E A C H E R G O V E R N A N C E O R G A N I Z A T I O N

## CAMERON PARK ELEMENTARY

### MEETING MINUTES

#### September 4, 2019 – General Meeting Media Center

#### **Attendance:**

**Board Present:** Kristin Driggers (Chair), Wendy Gehm (Vice Chair), Stephanie Crowe (Treasurer), Susan Veltum-Hall (Treasurer-Elect), Amber Bowman (Parliamentarian), Josh Morelli (Secretary), David Pfeiffenberger (Member-at-Large), Tony Widder (Principal), Amanda Boleratz (Asst. Principal), Meagan Duke (K-2 Rep.), Michael Somogyi (3-5 Rep.), Laura Casey (Specials Rep.)

#### **Board Absent:**

**Members:** Christie Smith, Will Atherton, Jennifer Johnson, Katie Crosby, Cindy Ludviksen, Keeley Richards, Justin Thomas, Krissi Hewitt, Kelly Sayed, Jennifer Grabner, Leah McGrath, Jenny Williams, Jeff Chmielewski, Lance Molby, Brice Hyatt, Heather Cummings, Doreen Wilson, Beth Curasi, Jennifer Quinn, Kelly Edwards, Janet Crowther, Jennifer Oxley, Michelle Burger, Miriam Tobias, Karen Wurcinger, Amanda Baker, Blake Ellis, Stephanie Minter, Chase Driggers, Kyle & Kristen Scanon, Amber Aguirre, Robert James, Jessica Harrell, Elizabeth Raines, Alejandrina Mendez V., Cristina Dela Puerta Santos, Mary Marraccini, Robb Smylie, Isabel Gutierrez, Alexis Franzese, Elianne Obregon

#### **1. Meeting Commencement, 6:30pm – Amber Bowman, Parliamentarian**

- a. Welcome and call to order
- b. Review and approval of the agenda
  - Motion by Wendy, unanimous approval
- c. Review and approval of the minutes from previous meeting
  - Motion by Chase, unanimous approval

#### **2. Welcome – Tony Widder, Principal**

- a. Ice-Breaker
  - 100% staffed, “buzz” in the halls with energy
  - This year’s theme is “Move Our Bus”, based on book by Ron Clark
    - Values that drive our bus:
      - Student-Focused
      - Relationships
      - Family
      - Positive Work Environment
      - PLC Strong
      - Desire to Learn
    - United Purpose. Collective Effort. Lasting Impact.

- Word memorization game, all sleep themed
    - Many words written down, including “sleep”, which wasn’t on the list
  - Video from the Winter Olympics about what moms see
    - Made a bunch of people cry
- 3. Introduction of Board – Kristin Driggers, Chair**
- a. Overview of Meeting Expectations & Parent Involvement
    - Acknowledgment of previous board members
    - Introduction of new board members
- 4. Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Crowe, Treasurer and Susan Veltum-Hall, Treasurer-Elect**
- a. Budget Review & Approval
    - Overview of recent income and expenses
    - Questions about late grant approvals
    - Budget unanimously approved
  - b. Grant Process Update
  - c. Reimbursement Update
- 5. PTGO Website Overview – Josh Morelli, Secretary**
- a. New website showcased.
  - b. Many features implemented and many more planned.
  - c. Any problems, questions, or suggestions can be directed to Josh or Dave.
- 6. PTGO Volunteering, Membership, and Fundraising – Kristin Driggers, Chair**
- a. Why Join?
    - It’s an opportunity to support our school community and staff
  - b. How can you volunteer?
    - Give what you can, when you can
    - Doesn’t have to be a full-time commitment
  - c. **Events:** Ice Cream Social, Teacher Appreciation Week and Events, Family Fun Night
    - Turkey Tuesday
    - Pop-Up teacher appreciation events
    - PE Night hosted by Mr. Westbrook, sponsored by PTGO
      - Families get involved in activities kids have done through the year
    - Teacher appreciation week had a different event each day
      - Capped off with a BBQ lunch on Friday
      - Last year’s theme was “Our teachers are world class!”
    - Sno-cones
  - d. **Fundraisers:** Fall Fundraiser, Spring Auction, Retail/Spirit Nights, Online Retail, Box-Tops
  - e. **Break out:** Ask questions and sign up.
    - Members sit at a table with a board member and ask questions or give feedback on PTGO activities
    - Lots of new Kindergarten parents
    - Wendy emphasized how rewarding it can be to get involved in a volunteer role
- 7. Grade-Level Updates – Teacher Representatives**
- a. Ms. Meagan Duke – K-2
    - Kindergarten
      - Kindergarten is having a great start to the year! We are busy learning routines and procedures and we are focusing on being C-Caring, P-Prepared, E-Engaged and S-Safe in all areas of the school. We are also busy making new friends!
      - This month, we are traveling to Letterland to learn our letter names and sounds, learning to be readers in Reader’s Workshop and practicing writing our names using a capital letter at the beginning!

- 1st Grade
  - Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! Thank you very much for a warm welcome back starting with breakfast and a sweet gift. We so appreciate it! First grade has been focusing on routines and procedures these first couple of weeks at school with our CPES expectations. Students are learning these expectations through modeling, read-alouds, and explicit practice.
  - We've started up our reader's and writer's workshop following the new curriculum designed by Lucy Calkins. We just completed a "Story of our name" project, please stop by and see those in the hallway! In math, we have been practicing routines and procedures for our new Bridges math curriculum. Coming up next is our study on communities and our walking field trip. We look forward to seeing all the first-grade parents tomorrow night September 5th, from 6-7pm! We're excited for a wonderful new year together!
- 2nd Grade
  - Second grade is off to a great start as we have spent a lot of time these first two weeks focusing on routines and procedures. We are working on the CPES expectations throughout the school. We have started a new math program, Bridges. We are in the process of learning the routines and activities for this curriculum. We are building our classroom communities. Our second graders seem to be transitioning well and we can't wait for a wonderful year. Thank you so much for supporting us!
- b. Mr. Michael Somogyi – 3-5
  - 3rd Grade
    - Thank you for the wonderful breakfast bar!
    - Thank you for expanding teacher allocations for teachers who are new and switching grade levels. We appreciate your support.
    - CogAT practice. Date TBD
    - BOG 9/11
    - TRC BOY Blitz 9/17
    - We need volunteers on the walking Hillsborough field trip (10/4) and people need to fill out background checks
    - Laptops are new and a work in progress. Learning to log into laptops.
    - Teachers are sharing the mice donated by PTGO last year to ensure all students have access.
    - We are so thankful for their amazing support and are working hard to make a strong start to the year building community and routines.
    - Reflex math renewal - research-based intervention
  - 4th Grade
    - September 10, 6:30-7:30pm: Parent Curriculum and Field Trip Night
    - October 4: Lost Colony Play (during school day)
    - October 8: NC Symphony Field Trip with Mr. Mitchell
    - October 25: Mountains Field Trip
- c. Ms. Laura Casey – Specials
  - Kristin addressed questions from Ms. Ceicutat about Media funding
  - Sra. Saper described 5th grade country projects that will be going on next month
    - Presentation/display of projects toward the end of October, date TBA
    - Kristin emphasized support and appreciation of all various cultural communities
  - Mr. Mitchell is starting a robotics club for 4th and 5th graders. Interest is strong!
  - Art
    - Ms. Casey highlighted that last year's fifth grade weavings were on display at the Board of Education.
    - The big bee hive that every student contributed to is outside the art room.

## 8. Principal Update – Tony Widder, Principal

- a. Enrollment is at 597 currently
- b. Fully staffed!

- c. Hallways are now a beautiful blue, not all beige anymore
- d. Roof in the lower hallway has been replaced
  - Once the roof edging is finished, the dumpster will be taken away
- e. The Cafeteria has been remodeled

## 9. Other Business

- a. None

## 10. Guest Speaker – Will Atherton, Chair of the Board of Education and CPES parent

- a. Student Reassignment Plan – Update and Q&A Session
  - Opened by thanking all parents and guardians for joining us tonight and being involved
  - Has a son that's a sophomore in college, daughter that's a junior in HS, children in CPES and Pathways
  - Emphasized that he's never heard of a parent wishing they'd worked harder, but many that have wished they attended more events or gotten more involved
  - Pointed out that the need for student reassignment stemmed from imbalanced growth in different parts of the district
  - Priorities for student reassignment:
    - Student Achievement
      - OREd can take data on student population performance and create models to balance that across schools
    - Stability
      - Don't want to take a child in 5th grade and have them finish 1 year at a brand new school
      - School stability for siblings taken into account as well
    - Proximity
      - Students who can walk to school will be kept at that school
    - Operational Efficiency
      - Utilize buses and school capacities effectively
      - Buses funded by the state, funding penalized for sub-optimal routes
  - After priorities defined, COO comes up with scenarios to discuss with school board
    - Example given that they also don't want to split up a neighborhood between multiple schools
  - Parent Advisory Council created to give feedback and new ideas to guide decisions
  - OREd takes all information and scenarios compiled and creates data-driven solutions
  - Five weeks ago, district staff presented 3 options to BoE
    - Option 1: Move attendance zone lines, ignoring buses or neighborhoods
    - Option 2: Close Central Elementary and create a dedicated Pre-K program there
      - Pre-K programs currently in multiple elementary schools
      - Would be managed easier in one central location
    - Option 3: Move HES to Central Elementary, create attendance zone, move people outside of zone to Pathways
  - School board considered only 1 of these (#3) a viable option, and there was not enough time to push this option through full process of vetting
    - Also would like to postpone decision until after a new superintendent is selected
    - Parent Advisory Council should have input prior to options being presented to the board
  - Social media blew up in response to these options, often with irrelevant discussions
    - Example given of SAPFO calculations of school capacities
  - Board will have a retreat with new superintendent to determine a new appropriate timeline.
- b. Questions
  - Was this plan for 2020-21 year?
    - Yes, but this has been delayed

- How were parent representatives chosen?
  - Principals were given discretion to choose 4 parents to represent each school's demographics
  - Events that occurred after first parent advisory meeting caused many hiccups in the process
    - Superintendent and COO both left
- Does the board still feel a sense of urgency to implement this plan?
  - Yes, plan is not put on hold indefinitely, just need to wait for a new superintendent and create a more thoughtful schedule to implement
- Are we missing a bond opportunity to build new schools by postponing this plan?
  - We're currently using bond money now
- Will any changes happen for 2020-21 school year?
  - No, board's decision was essentially to delay redistricting until after that year
  - Will's hope is to implement a new plan for the following year, 2021-22.
- Forest Ridge neighborhood parent concerned about stories of neighbor's children splitting between middle schools or high schools.
  - Based on Will's understanding and expectations, this situation is weird.

**11. Adjourn at 8:42pm**