

Grant PTA General Meeting

Date: May 15, 2024

Location: Grant High School Library

TO APPROVE

General Meeting - Called to order at 6:37 pm by Alison K.

- Welcome & Introduction
- 15 people in attendance

Special Topic/Speaker: Gary Hollands, PPS School Board

Business Executive Session

- Confirm quorum of 5 voting members
 - Quorum confirmed by secretary
- Announcements:
 - Grant PTA has been awarded a \$500 grant from the Irvington Community Association. We are so grateful for this support for us and many schools and groups in our area. All funds are raised through The Irvington Historic Home Tour which is back- *In Person*- on May 19! Buy tickets in advance at www.irvingtonpdx.com/home-tour.
 - Grad Party Volunteer opportunities - Natasha Stanley
 - Flyers handed out
 - Check weekly update for SignUp Genius link
- Secretary Report
 - Minutes Approval
 - Accepted as submitted
- Treasurer report
 - Bank checking balance for the PTA: \$23,344.61
- Membership Report
 - Total membership: 175
 - Still waiting for OPTA check
- Grant PTA Board Elections for 2024-2025
 - Nominating Committee
 - Beth Kinsolving and Alison Kalmanson
 - Returning Officers:
 - Vice President...Melissa Sullivan
 - Secretary...Monica Kearsley
 - Treasurer...Marah Bean
 - Nominated Slate

- President...Sandy McDaniel
 - Slate elected unanimously
 - New Business
 - Classroom grant applications update
 - No new applications
 - None outstanding
 - Legislative Update (Otto Schell)
 - The Teachers Levy is set for renewal on the May ballot. This represents a huge sum of money (100,000,000/year) for the district if renewed. Grant PTA has endorsed the Levy.
 - 28 out of 112 teachers at Grant would be lost
 - School communities are requested to share this information
 - The school modernization bond will also be up for renewal in the Fall.
 - Director Gary Hollands...PPS Board Member
 - Budget
 - 30 million deficit
 - Using 40 million from rainy day fund
 - Next year 70 million deficit
 - How to protect student facing positions
 - School Spotlight
 - Focus on programs that work
 - For example Interventionist reading 1st and 2nd, and 3rd and 4th math (15% increase in math scores)
 - Advocacy at State level
 - Narrative for public schools needs to change
 - Bus to take students to advocate
 - Asking state to fully fund QEM (quality education model)
 - Plan to begin after budget cycle...after June... for 2025 biennium
 - Need a coalition from around the state to point out it is a statewide issue
 - School boards around the state have been talking
 - Next Steps
 - Town Halls will be coming back hopefully once a month when the new Superintendent is here. Two board members to attend.
 - Important to look at the totality of how we educate our kids. The school covers nutrition, mental health, etc. Multnomah County and the City need to step up to share some of that burden
 - Question/statements from the floor
 - Crumbling buildings?
 - People expect each dime going really far. Bond measures are coming up as well. Worry about the mix of the bond and levy funding.
 - How does redistricting work?
 - For example Grant houses immersion programs.
 - Goal is to be collaborative with staff. You will always get people on the other side...we focus on making the majority
 - As far as where kids will be during Jefferson rebuild...there are other schools...Benson, etc. Jefferson is staying at Jefferson.

- There will be a high school boundary redesign once all buildings are rebuilt. Most likely before Jefferson is done. Starting work in 2026.
- Superintendent Search
 - How has discussion gone about salary and such
 - Much of what came out was misinformation
 - 22 candidates
 - Narrowed down to three. To be announced on Monday the 21st.
 - 28th at Grant meet the candidates
 - Student, district and public forums have happened and then interviews with the board with announcement on June 1st. Director Hollands is confident that we will have a superintendent.
- Some of the great things happening at the school have individual fundraising...constitution team, robotics, choir, sports, etc...all have their own funding. These should be community funded and not on the backs of parents who can fundraise and pay. Supplies are also provided by PTA and parents.
 - Are those things ever considered in the funding models and in budget consideration?
 - Goal of QEM is coming to a baseline. Having everything a school needs. Athletics , art, PE are in QEM. QEM helps us get to equity and fully funded programs (ex. Culinary. Band, CTE, dance)
 - Starting point it getting State to step up to QEM
 - QEM is based in Oregon
- Principal Report (Mr. McGee)
 - Trade show today was awesome
 - Boys Volleyball
 - Club sport...emerging sport clarified with the coach herself
 - Hopefully within two years it can be an OSAA sport
 - 26 come to practice at 6:30am
 - Graduation
 - June 6th . May 31st is Senior breakfast...opportunity to break bread together one last time. Culinary arts partner and Michelle Broy work really hard on it
 - Next year graduation will be at smaller venue...Portland State pavilion...new arena...only 4 tickets per family
 - Yondr Pouches
 - Kids are not happy
 - Principal McGee is at the end of 6th year as admin and had been a counselor before. He's stated, "We see the cell phones every day...poor choices they are making during the school day"
 - Cell phone caddies introduced this year. Still not good enough
 - Anecdotal evidence has been seen for awhile but now surgeon general and studies have come out to prove what we have been seeing
 - When you know better you do better. Our kids have become guinea pigs with a new thing.
 - We see issues in the building

- Bullying
 - Drugs..transfer, selling...via cell phone...delivered on your front porch
 - We want to give our students a 7 hours respite from smartphones
 - Increase engagement with teachers and community of students
- Admin have been looking at this since last fall
 - UofM and Common Sense media study
 - Number of messages a student get during the day...hard for kids to engage
- Cell phones disproportionately impacts struggling students
- Still tinkering with the policy
 - Then will have open houses
 - Students will have to put cell phones in the pouch once they are on campus
 - Unlock at the main office (if leave early) or at doors on openers that will be placed 10 minutes before school day. Teachers can unlock if needed
 - Students will not own pouches. If they lose it they will have to pay for a new one.
 - In current policy if we see the phone we take it and a parent will come pick it up.
 - Discipline policy will be implemented
 - accountability
 - Professional Accountability
 - Teachers currently have accountability to use the caddies
 - Teachers are desperate for some support
 - Teachers are supportive of the policy
 - We are underestimating the dependency of our kids
 - Students, teachers, alumni association, site counsel all consulted
 - We know we will tinker with the policy
 - We are already spending a lot of time on cell phones and the mismanagement of cell phones and thinking about cell phones
- Questions
 - Costs
 - 8% per year need to be replaced
 - What are cultural projections...how are you going to measure...the success
 - Reduction of bullying, academics have improved with those who have used it.
 - Discipline, grades, teachers noticing better engagement..with teacher/work and others
 - What about
 - Preplan! Pay other ways
 - Question from the floor “We should be teaching kids to control themselves”
 - McGee: Brains are not fully developed, kids are not prepared

- We are talking about a school culture...5 kids who can keep their phones away are not building the school culture...we all need to be in this. We are doing this.
- Creating the conditions where learning will happen
- Rules for adults are different...just like in a household...the rules from one family member are not the same for all
- If I'm wrong I will be the first to admit I was wrong.

Meeting adjourned (PTA President)