

MINUTES

Falcon Creek Middle School PTCO General Meeting

September 13, 2018 | Meeting called to order by Karri Haugsness, PTCO President at 6:04pm

In Attendance

Karri Haugsness, Hope Neal, Alan Lavizzo, Jennifer Ryan, Cindi Eckhardt, Divya Goyal, Jason Burns, Susan Burns, Lesley Temple, Lily Skop, Sarah Otto, Steve Clerkin, Barbara Sinar

Review/Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 2018 Executive Board Meeting were presented by Jennifer Ryan and were approved. Motion to approve - Steve Clerkin; Motion was seconded by Barbara Sinar.

Executive Briefings/Admin Update

Admin. Update by Alan Lavizzo

1. A review of the school performance framework was given. To summarize: as a school our students grew and there is work still to be done for students that fall within "subgroups". Overall school growth has improved from 2016-2017 (54.7%) to 2017-2018 (67.3%). Math had a tremendous jump and there was solid growth in Language Arts. A copy of these numbers is available through the School Accountability Committee.
2. Intentional work being done with IEP students to ensure Falcon Creek is a) within the law and b) creating good practice for all our students. Our school received a Connect for Success Grant to help jumpstart changes that Mr. Lavizzo was excited to put into practice. Mr. Lavizzo's aim is for full transparency, strong parent and community voice and full inclusion classrooms taught at grade level with any necessary support brought into the classroom.
3. Mr. Lavizzo shared a few of the goals on the 100 Day Plan that he and the staff are working toward. Climate and culture, creating a positive and welcoming environment, identifying student assets and leveraging those assets for student success, supporting students both academically and emotionally, helping students feel positive, supported and invested in their work and their school.
4. To encourage teachers to become further connected and invested in Falcon Creek, Mr. Lavizzo has required teachers to be on the committee of at least one of five staff committees. He hopes to increase opportunities for leadership and teacher voice.
5. A committee of Falcon Creek staff has been created to ensure that the Innovation Center is being utilized to its full potential. The thought is that once teachers become aware of how many different types of classes can be taught in this space, teachers will feel more comfortable. Many teachers have already begun to integrate the space into their teaching. Budgetary issues have prevented the Innovation Center from being staffed by a librarian. Volunteers are being encouraged to help fill gaps so that our students have full access to our new innovation space.

Executive Briefings

President's Report by Karri Haugsness

- Most aspects will be covered under "Old" or "New Business" as we progress through the agenda.
- Mrs. Haugsness informed us that although there have been delays, the sound system will be installed and fully functional by our school musical. The school also invested in additional headset microphones.

Treasurer's Report

- Current Profit & Loss statement was distributed.
 - Based on questions around the P&L, small discussions broke out around the success of Spirit Wear; how Spirit Wear is priced; an increase in lunch security from two security guards to two security guards and the addition of two members of administration; the idea of a Watch Dog Dad program to help with lunch supervision and to perhaps allow the kids to be in the grassy area adjacent to the cement area.
- Copies of the Proposed Budget for 18-19 were distributed.
 - Discussions around the budget decrease for Teacher Appreciation were discussed. A point was raised that the entire "Hospitality" section of the budget are expenses primarily for teachers. The question of our compliance to the Parents' Council was then raised. The budget was adjusted in May 2018 to meet Parents' Council requirements.
 - Snacks for Students were discussed. A parent requested that the option for 7th grade students to have snack and the availability of PTCO provided snacks be communicated with the community. Mr. Lavizzo agreed to do so in his next newsletter.
 - A motion to Approve the Proposed Budget was made by Susan Burns and seconded by Cindi Ekhardt.
 - The following changes were made to the budget:
 1. The addition of \$1000 for the Spring Community event
 2. The addition of \$50 for office supplies
 3. A increase in bank fees caused that line item to be increased.

Old Business

- An announcement was made that there were modifications to the 18-19 budget after a review.
- Open Board positions were announced and those in attendance were encouraged to spread the word or self nominate.

1. Reallocation of Funds (unspent grant money from the 17-18 school year)
 - Ideas on how to spend the \$1751.73 were opened for discussion. All ideas were captured for the record:
 - Shade for the lunch/recess area
 - New benches for the entrance to replace current ones that are badly rusted
 - New bike rack
 - Planting trees to provide shade near the lunch/recess area
 - Those in attendance were encouraged to continue to brainstorm and send their idea, via email to Mrs. Haugsness. A vote was tabled until the October 11th meeting.
2. The Bylaws were updated for the first time since 2013 and copies were provided to those in attendance. Changes were pointed out and all were notified that the Bylaws will be voted on during the October 11th meeting.
3. The Financial Policy was offered for review. Changes include the addition of a more thorough Grant Request Form and the ability for teachers to submit their forms electronically.
4. Feedback regarding the impression left by the BTSN picnic was requested. All comments were captured for the record:
 - Lack of communication for out of district/incoming families
 - Recommendation was made to work in conjunction with feeder schools to advertise BTSN events and other pertinent information.
 - Fun to see admin cooking
 - Nice to see staff/ able to develop relationships
 - More welcoming for new students and families
 - Good access to building/lockers
 - New student group was helpful
 - Relaxed atmosphere
 - Discussion around changing the format for the classroom presentations led to Mr. Lavizzo agreeing to consider options that create fewer hallway backups.
 - Great visibility of staff and admin
 - Free dinner was inviting and those in attendance agreed that it should remain free
 - \$1300 was spent. The goal was to feed 1200 with that budget. The left over hot dogs were frozen to be used in the future for celebrations for various clubs. Cookies were a big hit.

5. Color Battle will be October 5th. Kickoff September 21st. Cindi Ekhardt expressed that her goal is to make sure that every kid feels included. For that reason, she will continue to build relationships with the students to ensure that those who want to participate can do so without regard for financial constraint. Cindi's ideas and requests for this upcoming Color Battle are as follows:
 - Six game station instead of three to keep kids engaged and having fun
 - \$200 gift card will be raffled off
 - Students will participate in various contests allowing them to vote on 5 teachers to be "color bombed"
 - Mr. Ehrle has offered an airplane ride as a prize. *still working on details and approval.
 - Dion's Pizza and a doughnut party will be offered to the two SOAR classes with the highest participation
 - Still could use sponsors to help cover the cost of t-shirts that will be provided to every student regardless of event registration.
 - Encouraged the community to thank sponsors when visiting those businesses.
6. "Snacks for Students" will provide snacks for students who are unable to provide or have forgotten to bring their snack that day.
 - Funded by a generous grant from Wal-Mart.
 - Goal is to ensure kids have the fuel they need to thrive in school
 - Have spent \$136 for the first round of snack. The Board is hopeful that will provide at least a month's worth of snacks. Snack supply will be replenished monthly, or sooner, as needed.
 - Breakfast items (granola and cereal bars) are purchased in addition to things like goldfish crackers.

Committee Reports

Parents' Council – report given by Karri Haugness

- Changes in mandated reporting were announced
- Amendment 73 was discussed

District/School Accountability – report given by Alan Lavizzo

- 100 day plan was reviewed

Hospitality – report given by Karri Haugness

- Big push for Chili Cook off Nov. 8

PIN – report given by Sarah Otto

- Meeting was based around the sex, drugs and social media pitfalls our children face. Take away was to educate yourself and your child as to their rights and the long term consequences of middle school/high school mistakes.

School Store/Spirit Wear Order – report given by Karri Haugness

- Sales exceeding expectations
- Requested volunteers
- Announced that new spirit wear orders will be available after 9/20.

Next Meeting

General Meeting – October 11, 2018 | 9:30-11am | Innovation Center

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm