

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

## Allen Parent Council Meeting

5:30 - Call to Order/Welcome/Approval of October Minutes/Introductions

- Attendees: Caitlin Rowe, Elizabeth Peters, Kelly Faunce, Lyle Cull, Cabria Culp, Anatheia Collar, Lisa Querijero, Torey Madura, Michele Barkoot, Roberta Cole, Denise Murphy, Kerry Beal, Noureen Vaid, April Mulkey, Adrian Dantzer

5:35 - Principal's Report - Kerry Beal

- Kerry presented Parent Council with a thank you note from the staff for the snacks during the staff meetings!! Amazing food, very thoughtful!
- Field trips are ongoing. K went to County Farm Park, 4<sup>th</sup> went on their water tour trip, 3<sup>rd</sup> to the Botanical Gardens.
- Parent / Teacher conferences are almost wrapped up.
- Report cards will be sent home the Tuesday before Thanksgiving break.
- Box Tops are up from last year at this time.
- Parent Council is taking on keeping our green schools status - litter patrol, gloves, etc.
- Picture retakes done, hearing & vision testing is on-going.
- U of M Circle volunteer group will be on campus 11/14. They will be touching up paint, cleaning, etc.
- Super Hero Day will be Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Information with guidelines will be set out on Friday. Think outside the box - they can dress as someone from history, Allen Spirit wear, military, etc.
- Eagle Extravaganza will be soon as the board is filling up with stars!
- California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser on the 18<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving program is on the 24<sup>th</sup>
- Lunch with the Principal for those that qualified from Fun Run will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup>
- The next newsletter will be out in the next week or week and half
- Question about what the Mobile Dentist is - we offer for those that don't have a regular dentist. Not mandatory.

5:38 - Marco's Pizza - Marvin Ford brings samples and shares some fundraising options.

- Fundraising card with \$100 worth of discounts. Marco's prints, we sell for \$10 apiece and keep all the profit.
- Pizza night - a large 2 topping pizza on special for around \$9.99. \$2.00 from each pizza back to the school. The class with the most participation wins a pizza party.
- Michele Barkoot and Caitlin Rowe will work with Marco's to set up monthly pizza nights.

5:43 - Barnes & Noble - Lindsay Fortino from B & N introduces the book fair.

- Barnes & Noble did not attend the meeting.

5:48 - Guest Presenter Denise Murphy shares details about Allen's reading and Title 1 programs

- Handout: Easy Reading Activities to do with your kids (benchmark assessments). Back of this sheet has the current guidelines. Next year this will change and be harder. We hope at the beginning of the next year, the child is still at the level they were at the year before.
- Handout: Tips for Reading with Your Child
- Brought a selection of books to see what the books look like at different levels. Start with pictures, high frequency words, patterns, one line sentences. As we move on, more than one sentence, more dialog, becomes progressively more complex. More sophisticated non-fiction books have bold words, tables of content, side bars, maps, captions, indexes, glossaries, etc. As texts become more sophisticated, those elements become part of the guided reading lessons.
- What are the reading levels, how do I know where my child falls, what does that mean?
- K - 2 (Fountas and Pinnell) use 2 books - 1 fiction and 1 non-fiction. Bounce between the two. The child gets the book, and the teacher has the scoring sheet. Timer starts, teacher is checking the sheet. There are errors, self-corrects, and correct words. Accuracy and fluency are both considered. Errors and self-corrects are counted, and fall into a percentage. For levels, A-K, if under 90% accuracy, the book is too hard. 90-95% puts them in instructional range. 95-100% might be too easy. For levels L-T, below 95% is too hard, 95-97% is instructional and 98-100% might be too easy. Comprehension conversation then occurs, which is open ended. If the child can't give info on their own, probing questions are asked. This is written down, and it's determined if it's excellent, satisfactory, or limited comprehension. Assessment of accuracy and comprehension are totaled, and determines where child falls.
- Report card will show you their instructional level. This is most likely the level that will be used for instruction at school. Suggest reading books at the independent reading level (1-2 levels below instructional level) so they don't get frustrated and want to quit. Reading at the Instructional level allows the reader to improve fluency and practice newly learned skills on their own.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> uses Ann Arbor benchmark system. 1 fiction, 1 non-fiction. Kids read a passage, same idea as above. Level L accuracy = 96% book is too hard. 98% & above is independent. Also have to think about the text and why the author made the choice they made. They take the lower of the two of accuracy and comprehension and that is where the child falls.
- Question - how do we guide readers at home who drop/leave out words? We need the kids to buy into the system we use. We need to remind them to verbalize the words even though they read it in their mind. Another example is

saying “look” instead of “looked”. Encourage accuracy and precision in reading, just like we encourage accuracy and precision in mathematics.

- Question - Studies show that kids aren't developmentally ready to read until they are 6-7 years old, yet we keep pushing them to do more at younger ages. What do the teachers think of this? They are confident that the more we expose them, the better they will do. Ann Arbor is still using the norm referenced 2011 guidelines as the 2015 sample moves backward a bit.
- Question - When do students get Title 1 services? There are a set of entrance and exit criteria to determine who qualifies. We use benchmark, NWEA, SRI, report card, teacher observations for entrance into the program. Kindergarten students are not being seen as they are just learning how to do school and the routine. They may be pulled in at the end of the year. Always more need than resources, so have to be strategic on who gets services, but no matter what they get support in the classroom. Title 1 goes beyond classroom strategies.
- Question - What does Mrs. Sheremet do? She does ½ time English language support for ESL, ½ time reading intervention program. Not the same as Title 1. Services do not overlap.
- Question - how does RAZ kids fit in, does it help? It's a great program, and bridges the at-school/at-home realm.
  - o Quick tips - can't have them do it unattended. 1<sup>st</sup> - they need to listen to the book and don't press the button as page turns automatically. 2<sup>nd</sup> - read the same book on their own, now they press the button. At the end, there is a quiz (may be able to go back to the book and check) and a score. There are icons that light up as they complete the steps. 3<sup>rd</sup> - if they don't pass the quiz, they should re-listen and re-read the book, then re-take the quiz.
  - o Parents should be able to login and see reports on what their kids are working on.
- RAS kids: budget item. We had approved 6 classrooms for a total of \$599.70. The proposal was to approve an additional 6, which would bring the total to \$1019.40; an additional cost of \$419.70. The total budget for teacher grants is \$2650. We approved \$1800 in grants at the October meeting. This additional amount brings the grant expenditures to \$2219.70. Further budget discussion will happen to build in as a line item going forward. Can be used all summer long.
  - o Anatheia Collar motions, and Torey Madura seconds. All in favor.

#### 6:02 - Fun Run Wrap-up/Renewal

- We earned \$16,310.50 this year (\$12,725 online, and \$3585.50 in-school)! Of that, the net profit is \$13,106.69 after fees paid to The Get Movin' Crew (\$3204.81, or 19.6% of what was raised). Fees include \$2400 for the \$6 per student full service fee, \$500 to reserve a spot for next year, and \$304.81 in online pledge usage fees. We also spent \$256 (\$375 originally) on jump ropes for any child that raised any dollar amount toward the Fun Run.

- Total expenses under 23-25% is generally acceptable from an accounting standpoint.
- We hoped to raise \$10,500, so we exceeded that goal.
- Should we go ahead and reserve a spot for next year? If so, the \$500 has already been accounted for in our totals. If not, we will get that \$500 in the check we receive from TGMC.
- Previous year fundraiser net profits have been: Fun Runs: \$8960 (14-15), \$12,538 (13-14), \$12,644 (12-13). Silent Auction: \$11,230 (11-12).
- Same time of year, in the afternoon.
- All classes that reached 100% will get a pizza party.
- Torey Madura makes a motion to book for next year, Lisa Querijero seconds. All in favor.

6:10 - Budget reallocation discussion - should Think Stretch funds be used to cover IXL costs that the school can no longer fund?

- \$1600 for Think Stretch, \$1000 for IXL. We aren't doing Think Stretch next year, so can we combine these for IXL?
- Think Stretch is a summer workbook that reinforces what they learned, and the kids could earn a medal if they completed enough weeks. We didn't get out of it what we wanted. Participation = K - 64%, 1<sup>st</sup> - 57%, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 80%, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 67%, 4<sup>th</sup> - 66%. Title 1 was only 61%.
- There are logs in IXL that include what outcomes they should be achieving.
- Allen Eagles E-Blast could be sent all summer with experiential ideas for summer learning.
- Work in conjunction with the AAPL Summer program.
- IXL Language Arts isn't included.
- Question - can parents purchase Think Stretch books on their own? Yes, they are about \$20.
- Parents can also buy summer bridge books from Barnes & Noble.
- RAS Kids and IXL adapts to the kid's level, and they can move ahead if they are able.
- Parent Council needs to communicate at the end of the year that these programs may be available to their kids over the summer.
- Anatheia Collar motions to move the funds from Think Stretch to IXL line item so the program is funded fully by Parent Council, with the caveat that Parent Council and teachers come up with a way to communicate over the summer experiential ideas (including worksheets that can be printed), with input from the teachers. Torey Madura seconds. All in favor, Lisa Querijero abstains.

6:20 - New Business and/or Brainstorming Session: How can we activate the Allen community?

- Did not get to this item at this meeting.

6:30 - Adjourn

- Lisa Querijero moves to adjourn.

The next Parent Council meeting is Wednesday, January 13 (no meeting in December) from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Allen Media Center. All are welcome. FREE childcare for school-aged children is provided.

#### **December Events at Allen:**

- Dec 5<sup>th</sup>: Barnes & Noble Book Fair, 11 AM - 2 PM
  - o Allen takes over Barnes & Noble on Washtenaw and earns up to 25% of sales generated in-store on the 5th or online from the 5th through the 9th. There'll be story time, crafts, and performances. We may be able to convince the Allen Eagle to make an appearance.
  - o This is a great community-building event and is a lot of fun for all who attend. Keep in mind, ALL PURCHASES made in-store on the day of the event (as well as online for the 5 days after) are eligible for credit to Allen's total. That means toys, games, journals, bags, and café purchases count towards our sales!
  - o More information will be going home via backpack mail. Also look for an online signup for volunteer opportunities.
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>: Re-test Hearing & Vision
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup>: Tappan Choir & Orchestra Visit
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> - Jan 1<sup>st</sup>: No School - Winter Break

#### **January Events at Allen:**

- Jan 4<sup>th</sup>: School resumes
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup>: Parent Council Meeting, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
- Jan 18<sup>th</sup>: No school - MLK Day
- Jan 20<sup>th</sup>: Title 1 Family Math Night, 5:45 - 7:00 PM