

## **PFA Budget Meeting Minutes**

### **5/22/18**

*Meeting called to order by Season Skuro at 8:20 AM*

#### **President's Introduction**

- Sign in and review budget from last meeting.
- PFA Treasurers hold an Annual Budget meeting to review the "proposed budget" for the following academic school yr.
- The treasurers look at all the line items from the current year and meet with PFA Board members and BL staff to see what the funding needs are for moving forward for the following school yr.
- School Site Council members were present. They are excited for new opportunities, programs, fundraising, education, art, and music.
- Collaboration with School Site Council.

#### **Principal's Update**

- Thank you for to all for all that you do for our school. We do a good job of providing excellent education.
- PFA function vs School Site Council's function were defined. PFA provided fundraising. School Site Council is 5 parents and 5 school staff members . SSC Budget is approx. \$30,000. It's a small budget to work with.
- Talked with teachers and a Survey was sent out to them to see what their priorities were for PFA funding. The teacher survey indicated their priority was to have more music with a district specialist . They were very grateful for supply related funding provided by PFA.
- Ms. Cortina would like rich art and music program, which we hope will come in time. School site council has set big goals and this is all part of the 5 year plan.

**Season Skuro** - Katie Greco is our Administrative Vice President and parliamentarian. No Cross talking  
**Katie Greco** - 1 minute for all to speak.

**School Site Council** – Regard themselves as partners with PFA. Want to facilitate that.

**Season** – We are all here to be advocate for our children. We as parents of need to stay positive for what an amazing school we have.

#### **Treasurers's Updates:**

We have worked hard to listen to all of your feedback and have tried very diligently to ensure that everyone was heard and that the funds/events on this budget reflect that.

- Thank you Alexis for sending the Teacher Survey out, very beneficial to be advised on the teachers' priorities.
- AFD – School enrollment is down as of today. 620 this year (575 projected for next year, may go up). 80% participation overall for AFD this year. We forecasted 80% for next year.
- We are not going to include Company Match in the projected budget revenue,
- **Shelby and Colby** – 52% Bronze, 5% Silver, 6% Gold, 2% Platinum, 2 Sapphire, 20% other dollar amount, 2% blank, 0 donation from 69 people. Forms sent out to all multiple times. People

choose to not pay. Confidential as to who pays or who doesn't. At the end, all were thanked, including the people who signed the form, but gave nothing. Pushed hard this year. Ms. Cortina received complaints that people felt harassed.

**Discussion:**

Alexis - Other schools charge more and get more for the kids. We cannot provide stuff. Teachers want music.

Dawn – We need to have a plan if we raise AFD. School year is almost over and we just got teacher priorities. There is no clear plan of what the extra AFD will buy.

Elise- Survey should go out to all parents and ask what they want for the kids.

Jessica – The teachers decide what the curriculum is, not the parents.

Bridget – Table this for now. Need to look at expenses and all line items to get through budget. We can still take a vote and then revise.

Jessica – We have already decreased other line items to balance the budget. People want more, but our fundraising this year has not met most of the goals established to cover the annual expenses. We all want to get the most for our kids.

Julie – In previous years we just raised fees when we needed something. For ex: Money went to technology with specific plan in place.

Jessica – We need to advertise to parents how a raise in AFD would benefit their children. Also, before the previous Treasurer's included in the budget a \$50,000 rollover from savings, if they could not make budget. We no longer do this, gives false sense of actual funds needed and money can run out quickly if you base on that concept. You don't want to have to touch savings.

Katie- Need to get through whole budget before we make changes.

Dalia – If we raise to \$600 what happens?

Treasurers – Need to stay on track, numbers need to be calculated for raise in AFD to know what that amount is.

**Budget Line by Line Review:**

**Treasurers – We will discuss revenue first.**

- School Auction - \$15,200.
  - Fees look high, but treasures explained we had to pay bill from previous year and auction items that were from Bidding for Good we were paid upfront full amount from auction and then repaid Bidding for Good their percentage. The show as expenses, but they are not true expenses.
  - Are we going to have auction chair for Fall?
    - Discussion to move it to Spring next year.
- Teacher Auction – No changes and no questions.

- Community Partnerships – 0 changes. Discussion for Banners. May not be able to hang banners on fences due to security. Can hang on solid walls. Nothing on fences which will block the open view of the school. Concerns as each banner sponsor is \$1000. Banners usually good because everyone can see them. Need to look for new locations. YMCA had problems with fencing, some banners had to move. Seeing banners important to sponsors. Discussion for new electronic billboard. Council can be sponsor for the Marquee, all day advertising. No logos allowed and some people do not look at it. Great ideas noted. Fair sponsors \$20,000. Season Collaborated with other PFA Presidents, all have same problems.
- Literacy Week – Possibly will change name. Working on it, big project. Many items need 2 chairs. Teachers didn't come to read when asked and didn't like it. Switch it up. Classes just got 300-400 books/grade. Teachers don't need donations of books from parents. May consider Read-A-Thon. Revenues good, will look at it. Further discussion regarding changes, off by \$1000 to make up. Exploring options. Leave at \$4500 but skeptical.
- Birthday Book Club - Fine
- Spirit Wear – Needs more support and better plan. Happy to have Heather Holmes on board next year to support spirit wear sales with Marina. Revenue: \$2000.
- Carnival – Not sure if will be Carnival or other event. Revenue: \$10,000.
- Jog-A-Thon – same
- Sporting Event (Mother-Son) – Family Fun Day. Discussion, Kidchella
- Party Book – Not hit \$20,000 but currently at \$13,000. Have chairs for next year. Many spring fundraisers. Discussion.
- Spring Dance - Good
- Talent Show – Good
- Enrichment (Dante) – No Changes
- Assemblies – Decrease to \$3000 for this years budget. Least favorable from teacher survey, Alexis Arinsburg will try to find free ones this year. Kids like BMX assembly, can try to get sponsors. Hopeful for free stuff such as water district and onsite field trips.
- Outdoor Education - \$1000 is scholarship. PFA pays if student can't pay.
- Campus Safety - \$2000 realistic, some things don't need a replacement each year. If supplies used, other plans discussed.
- Directory -Good
- Field Trips – Some schools ask for money at beginning of the year for all field trips, discussion for BL teachers and room parents to take care of at the beginning of the year,
- Fifth Grade – Culmination/Tile Day. Added \$100 for outdoor ed as teacher buy popsicles, etc.
- Hospitality – Movie, New Family Welcome, etc. Discussion...Would be great to get teachers support at New Family Welcome vent to say what the PFA money is for and provided so much for our kids, since the state does not pay for much. Explain. Kinder packet should say, already has gone out. We always used to have an in home event set for Fall Kinder orientation. Some schools have an ambassador for each grade. If done right the first year, we will have family Commitment for the 5 years. Empower with a title to the parent to lead to community collaboration. Idea for Sagebrush to host their space. Prefer to be at a home , which is more intimate, maybe we can collect AFD that night.
- Library Supplies – no questions

- Accounting - Fees seem -high. The more we make the more the bank fees goes up. Losing money in fees when pay with credit. Gravy when someone pays with check. Affects carnival, etc. Talk to companies to see if they can charge less. Presently, \$15 goes out of AFD for charges. Cannot make changes to credit card fees, they are already low.
- Personnel Discussion:
  - Treasurers - Advised there is a total of \$45,000 earmarked in the 2018-19 draft budget for music and art. They also stated the conversation to review the teacher survey did not occur until the day prior to the budget meeting. SSC members discussed the teacher surveys for guidance, and expect they will make official recommendation soon.
  - SSC Alan – Music is intersection between education and cognitive ability. Benefits are greatest in elementary school. Kids score 20-30 points more on standardized tests. Mental Health benefits moves people. Would be great to have an amazing concert at end of year. We are intensely visual world. Creativity is most important for employees. SSC would support increasing AFD to \$600. Need to get credentialed person to teach music.
  - Treasurers – We cannot give you exact numbers based on the new AFD amount now, because the district costs were not provided for this scenario. We would need to run and finalize numbers.
  - Discussion Pros/Cons
    - Treasurers – Packets already went out.
    - Alexis – 2 neighbors don't go here because of a lack of arts/music program.
    - Treasurers – We have no plan, we are rushing over facts. We are not comfortable without having all spending scenarios for hiring fully vetted.
    - Heather – Reading specialist was hired and we need to discuss. Why don't other schools, like Chapparal, pay for theirs?
    - Cortina - District has no funding for reading specialist. Some kids have greatly benefited from reading specialist. Our current specialist supports kids by teacher recommendation. She is part time. Kids are tested for special ed. Robust program for special ed. Hit Daily 5. Great expectations. Need to look at what we want with current budget.
    - Heather: Suggests we show the district that PFA will no longer pay for the reading specialist, which may lead to decrease in test scores.
    - Alexis – We can be ready with our specialist program for 25 classes by September. Board members would love to see new music program this year. Another suggestion made to raise AFD to \$600...If Art Trek not favored then move it to music.
    - SSC Sophie – Says she and other parents would be happy to create committee for an art curriculum to do things this year. Could Google art programs and give teachers with binders with lesson plans if it helps to do it. Will support teachers. Enjoyed Art Trek but could have done it on our own. Suggestion made to move \$10,000 from art into Music, which would leave \$5000 for art supplies. We are now at \$40,000.
    - Alexis – We would need to go to \$56,000 to have a full-time music specialist. That is about \$15,000 more.
    - Treasurers – We don't know exactly what \$56,000 will get us for music; the proposals submitted did not factor in class length, frequency, or the option of sharing a resource.

If we have to share a resource there are other things to consider, in terms of expenses we are responsible for. Too many unknown variables, until we speak with District. Board Members continued discussion for what parents want. Parents embrace what's effective. J/K program that teaches more. Trained instructor for J/K-5 will have a strong response. Needs to have a vision. Kinder always had dance and jingle and kids really happy. Funding is the issue.

Alexis - Lupin has 30 minutes every week. Round Meadow has 4.5 hours a day for music. Discussion for each grade to have music.

Alan – Qualified teacher better chance. Will get composers to come and speak to kids, great to have someone with a long term vision.

Treasurers – Could we make sure that the J/K teachers are on board with having 1 teacher that teaches all grades?

Cortina – Process would be invitational posting and look through application and interview as a panel.

Board member inquired about what happens if we don't find a viable candidate  
Cortina - If they are terrible, can go and interview more.

Alexis – We are paying extra for the librarian and only 50% of teachers want it.

Cortina – It's more about keeping library open during recess and lunch and the kids use it. Personnel for the Fall semester is set, we can't cut hours for next semester. Worth it to review and follow up.

Heather - Computer lab, what is being taught?

Alan - Music education is a different thing.

Treasurers – Our supply budget was cut from \$20,000 to \$10,000.

Cortina – We are educators, need to let people know what the programs are.

Treasurers - Staff proposals and school supplies budget amounts have been reallocated for next year. For technology, the sum is the same, even if no changes. Teacher proposals moving to SSC budget.

**Vote 1**

Elise Nach makes a motion to approve everything in the Budget except for raising AFD, music, and art. Jodie Katofsky seconds the motion.

Yes – 18.

No - 0.

Abstaining -2 (Alexis & Heather)

Passed

**Vote 2**

Elise Nach makes a motion to hire a district music teacher for J-5. Dawn Sue-Dare seconds the motion.

Yes – 18. No – 0. Abstaining – 2. (Alexis & Heather)

Passed.

**Vote 3**

Lindsay Strull makes a motion to raise AFD to \$600 with \$56,000 for district hired music teacher and the remainder for art. Julie Tesser seconds the motion.

Yes – 17.

No – 0.

Abstaining – 3 (Alexis, Heather & Beth)

- Beth – Cannot vote on this if there if the volunteer efforts for creating an art program (for this one year) if they are not supported.

Passed

*Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM*