May 21st, 2013
May PTO Meeting

I. Welcome: Larisa Lilles and Angie Davis
   a. French Tutoring Program – Lauren Esrig and Katie Evens from SEHS. They’re starting a tutoring program matching HS students and Charlemagne students. Starting applications of tutors this summer and will be promoting it over the summer with sign-ups in August/September.
   b. Erin Carey: Strings Program next year. Next year more of a private lesson and semi-private lesson format. Benefits of music education. Erin’s style is similar to Suzuki style but not as strict. You can rent the violins from a shop in South Eugene.
   c. Volunteer position sign up: Please see Angie or Larisa if you are able to continue in your volunteer position for next year, or if you are interested in any of the open positions.

II. Site Council
   a. Site Council update (Shannon): Next year community values will be a focus again and also French focus. Also, there is a district-wide focus on English language arts. Those are our three areas of focus for next year.

III. Committee Reports
   a. Fundraising
      i. Spring direct drive: We’re at $25,000. Next year we’re going to do a fall and spring drive again. Eugene Education Fund (EEF) takes 10% of all money given through them to pay for staffing. This is partially to cover their operating costs and partially to fund scholarships which we are eligible to apply for. Staffing funds must run through EEF or be paid straight to the district. If we pay straight to the district, they take 10% also which goes into an undetermined district account. PTO decided several years ago that it was preferable to go through EEF.
      ii. Jogathon: $8,500 for just one day collection. Hildy said she cannot do it next year. We’re looking for two coordinators for next year.
      i. Teacher Appreciation Week: Went very well. Monday we had a breakfast buffet. We interviewed teachers about their pets and put pictures in breezeway. Tuesday: flowers for teacher. Wednesday: 2 massage therapists. Thursday: Asian cuisine luncheon. Jog-a-thon and bbq last day.
   c. eScrip: Brett and Melissa Gomsrud
      i. Silent Auction sign-up
   d. Co-Chair’s Report
i.  Looking for new in-coming PTO co-chair for next year! Larisa is ending her two year term and they are looking to fill her position. Please contact Larisa or Angie if you are interested.

e.  Green Schools/Garden Club (Tabatha Andrews): Tabatha and Erika will continue on next year. They've completed the second stage as a Green School and will move on to the third stage next year. They have been serving salad from the garden during lunch for a couple of weeks and the kids have been eating it up!

f.  Stand for Children update (Sabrina Parsons): Today is the big day to find out about the bond. Yes four 4J website to get updates.

IV.  Treasurer’s report (Sabrina Parsons)

a.  New income statement. We have $196, 152.71 which reaches our goal for the year! We should be able to staff two teachers at each grade and pay for partial hours of the Instructional Assistants.

V.  Principal’s Report

a.  Canoe Island update: with our revenue where it is looks promising/doable 3 years ago when Tom first came, he was asked right away to find a replacement for Quebec that would be also French but must be inclusive. We batted around a lot of ideas and finally landed on Canoe Island. Tricky part is: we can only go the day after Labor Day, they are holding staff over for us to get a reduced rate. However, school may not be in session. Even if it isn’t in session, they’ll go. It will be a bonding experience. Lots of French language and culture and some science, too.

b.  We’re on a trajectory that we started 3 years ago. We’re on our way, but not quite there. One regret of Tom not being here next year is not to see the trajectory continue. There’s a shift that is stronger in French we look for kids to do French in social studies, anywhere else it can be integrated. Next year will be 3rd, 4th, 5th grades immersion in French language arts. Also, when you step out of the car, you should be stepping into a city or language immersion atmosphere. There should be as much French outside of classes happening as well (teacher to teacher, teacher to student, etc.)

c.  Budget and staffing plans for 2013-14

i.  Principal search: Tom has a clear notion of what the next principal should bring. **One person who is interested is very interested in theater and technology.** We could be doing more with plays—performing them,
writing them etc. They need to be able to connect with kids, respect and listen to parents. Someone who can foster the horsepower at this school - the strong parent presence and abilities, talents, leadership etc.

ii. 2 teaching positions posted: We’ll have a new 1st and either a new 4th or 5th. No blends so we’re adding a position: 5th grade. We’re also posting a half-time position at 2nd grade. Still might be some shifting within the school. Around district there will be layoffs and shifting. Most schools have to wait to post until those shifts can occur. Since we require French language fluency, we are hoping to be able to post sooner. Timeline: Human Resources is waiting for a candidate pool that meets HR’s requirements and then they’ll interview for a new principal. Will classes be self-contained? It’s on a case-by-case basis, depending on what works for each class/the teachers at the grade level etc. School board hires. A team here makes a recommendation to the board.

iii. School improvement initiative. Next year: we’ll have four leadership positions dedicated to making French language stronger.

iv. There is a new growth and evaluation system initiative. It’s much more comprehensive than previous system/model. It will be good but more demanding. You have to know good teaching when you see it and good classroom management and when you don’t, know how to give that feedback and get results.