

PTO Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2014 6:30-8:00PM

1. Welcome and Introductions – Gina Thompson & Melissa Gomsrud

Those present introduced themselves.

2. Committee Reports

a. Green School – “Reducing Plastic Trinkets at School” – Tabatha Andrews

The school currently hands out plastic trinkets for chapeaus and at Mardi Gras. Tabatha Andrews presented a proposal to reduce (but not eliminate) the trinkets. One proposal is that students can choose either a plastic trinket or a marble, which will be assigned a value. The marbles will be placed in a jar and, at the end of the year, all of the students can earn a “prize” that celebrates the entire school. For example, maybe a fun assembly could be held. The students could vote on the proposals. Since we are not fundraising as much, the PTO could designate some money for the “prize.”

Comments or suggestions regarding this proposal can be sent to the PTO and we will address it and attempt to formulate a plan at the next meeting

b. Fundraising

1. Auction – Jess Keiper

The Auction is set for April 17, 2015 at the Vet’s Club. The Auction Committee is looking for volunteers including a Chair because they need lots of help. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year and it needs support. Please sign up in the office or email the PTO or Jess if you want to help.

2. Holiday Trees – Larisa Lilles

Gina presented for Larisa. If you choose to purchase a tree for the holidays, please consider purchasing it from Spring Creek Holly Farm. A percentage of the price will go to Charlemagne – you just need to tell them what school.

3. OBOB – Jennifer Frei

Nothing presented.

4. Poinsettia & Wreaths – Alice Webb

Melissa presented for Alice. Poinsettia and Wreaths are scheduled for delivery on Dec. 5 during the Holiday Fair. The profit for this fundraiser was \$1593.25

5. Amazon Smile – Angie Davis

Melissa presented for Angie. A detailed description of Amazon Smile is coming in the enews. Basically, Amazon Smile lets you designate Charlemagne PTO to receive a % of your Amazon purchases.

6. Occasional Restaurant and Business Fundraisers – Bob Chandler

December 17 is the date of the Oakshire and Papa's Pizza fundraisers. More information. There are also still Unique Eugene gift certificates available.

7. Book Fair –Natalie Reeves

The book fair sold \$8850 in Scholastic Books and we get 55% back for our library and the teachers. Feel free to send recommendations for books to purchase to the PTO.

c. Esprit de Corps (Turkey Drive and Winter Warmth) – Gina Thompson

Esprit de Corps is the committee that assists Charlemagne families, handles teacher and staff appreciation and other community building (popsicles at the beginning of school). They are looking for people interested in taking over the committee from Gina. They are currently collecting money for the Turkey Drive (drop your donations in the office) and will be collecting coats for the Winter Warmth Drive.

d. Holiday Market – Stephanie Hand

The Holiday Market is set for December 5, 2014. Tables will be available for children or adults who want to sell crafts. Students can sign up in the office.

2. Principal's Report – Eric Anderson

Eric summarized the panel discussion held on November 18, 2014, about the K-12 Immersion program. It was a great panel that included current and former immersion students, a University of Oregon professor, teachers. He hopes to have additional, similar discussions for parents in the future.

Next, the discussion turned to 4Js plan to implement full day kindergarten. Currently, Charlemagne at Fox Hollow has 11 classrooms. Once we transition to full-day kindergarten, we will need 12. We also could use additional space for music because, based on the current contract, it appears we will get full-year PE and part-time music next year (or vice-versa) and then full-year PE and music the following year.

There are two options (1) expand our current location by either adding additional quads or building on or (2) moving to another location – specifically the Parker Elementary site.

The School Board is interested in parent input. On **December 2, 2014** at Charlemagne 6:30 – 7:30 pm, the superintendent, Dr. Shelley Berman, his chief of staff, and possibly members of the School Board will be here to identify the options for Charlemagne and provide an opportunity for parents to comment. The meeting is still in the planning stages and Eric hopes to provide some additional information about how the evening will be structured so that parents are able to provide input.

Eric made clear that based on his discussions to date, he does not believe the decision whether to expand or move has been made and that the School Board is interested in parent comments.

The pluses for moving to Parker (which is currently vacant) are that it is closer, on a bus line (making it more accessible for families), and it is larger (23 classrooms). The pluses for staying include the history and that there is no risk of needing to share a space.

Given that expansion of the program does not seem to be a priority at this time, some parents present expressed concerns that if we were to move to Parker, we may be required to share the space with another alternative school (Eric explained that the School Board is generally not in favor of alternative schools and neighborhood schools sharing space).

Parents raised concerns that the School Board seemed to not be supportive of alternative schools including immersion and what this meant for the future of the program. Eric believes that support for immersion is growing and does not see the decision of whether we stay or go as a squeeze out.

A parent asked whether if we could expand, Roosevelt and South could absorb it. Eric explained that they would like us to grow because the way we fund at FTEs when we have a smaller class the goes on to middle school (like a class of 48), the classes are too small to split but are very big to have in one class. The district funds at enrollment $(N) \times 1/26.9$ - the needs index. With our needs index, Charlemagne needs closer to an average of 28 in a class. We went to 30 in kindergarten to cover for attrition at the higher grades.

A question was raised about what else could be put at Parker. A discussion was had about whether the Little French School could rent part of Parker and develop a more robust pre-k program and have an after school program at that location. It is too early in this process to have any significant discussions on this.

Eric was asked his position. He indicated that it was too early for him to take a position because there are so many unanswered questions. He is willing to provide his position when the information, including parent feedback, is available.

Eric then turned to Meet the Masters which is an art program in which the students learn about a particular artist. It was a huge success and the teachers loved it. It is \$300 per artist plus \$100 for supplies. The FLAT team is now working to develop a similar program themselves with more emphasis on French. This is very important because the teachers are excited about it and that will be very positive for the school.

Eric mentioned that we have presented a request for funds to the district for a technology plan (thanks to the passage of the Bond measure). We requested adequate equipment for a 2 to 1 ratio. Right now we have a COW and a half (~ 45 computers).

Finally, Eric provided an update on the progression of the staff. There is a staff meeting on December 1, 2014, and they are framing the discussion with the Charlemagne core values and district parameters and using an equity tool to determine curricular and program changes. They will be investigating inequities, possible positive and negative effects of changes. The key is to put aside biases and will to win and place focus on the students. Eric is excited. The staff is nervous but he thinks the end result will be good for the school

3. Site Council Update – Shannon Tom greenietom@gmail.com 10 minutes
Bob Chandler chandler@tactics.com
Lisa Ghandour hassanandlisa@yahoo.com

Shannon Tom brought up the issue of Halloween. In the past there had been discussion of whether to continue with two Halloween traditions: the costume parade and the class parties given that some families do not celebrate Halloween and it results in a loss of instruction time. When the issue of when to have conference came up and given that Halloween was a Friday, a decision was made to have Halloween as a conference day. They are aware parents were upset.

A discussion was held and the consensus seemed to be that parents would like to continue to hold a costume parade in the morning even if it is a couple of days before Halloween to accommodate conferences etc. Families who did not wish to participate could come to school after. Most parents seemed to agree that parties were unnecessary.

The school tradition of shoe filling based on the French tradition with Père Noël will continue.

Finally, Site Council has applied through the Eugene Education Foundation for several grants. There were two smaller grant proposals - one for software programs to help with French and one for a pool of money to purchase math applications to assist students as needed. The larger grants proposals were for funds for after school targeted classes to help with French (specifically for older kids that wish to join the program later) and math.

4. Volunteer Update -- Kathy Gregory

If you are heading up an activity for Charlemagne and you need volunteers, email Kathy at Kathygregory@comcast.net. There is also a sign up in the office if you want to volunteer.

5. Teacher's Report – Madame Carlson (5th Grade)

Madame Carlson spoke regarding some new things you may be hearing about from your children. There is a new focus in the curriculum on the classroom community and it is a way to dig into issues whether it is bullying, other conflicts or concerns and deals with how to handle a variety of issues that arise.

There are 3 key rules:

1. Eye contact
2. No speaking when others speaking
3. Speaking in the realm of people – meaning when a student describes an issue there are no individual name but more general statements like people are hurting my feelings. This means we are taking away blame.

The Chapeaus have been updated and simplified to core values – safety, responsibility and respect.

Domgages (negative behavior slip) have been brought back because the staff all agreed there needed to be consequences for actions and there was a belief that the accountability had been slipping. They are attempting to decrease antisocial behaviors and behaviors that are not healthy.

There is a new anti-bullying program to teach children to get out of a bullying situation. Stop, walk and talk. This means (1) ask someone to stop (2) if it doesn't stop, walk away and (3) if it happens repeatedly or is significant, talk to a teacher or adult.

When reports of bullying or other issues are made, the teacher will either address the other child or if the child who reported it is comfortable with mediation, the teacher will sit down with both students.

If it gets to Eric, then he tries mediation and also looks for other witnesses. He is a fan of restorative discipline meaning attempting to restore the relationship. If there is an injury, though, then other means like suspension might be necessary. Eric did note that this program raises awareness and initially that can mean an uptick in the number of reports and some exaggeration because of all the hype, so it is important to drill down on what really happened.

****Budget Update from November 18, 2014****

Sabrina Parsons, the treasurer, could not be present at the PTO meeting on the 20th. She gave a brief presentation on the budget on the 18th as follows:

Sabrina noted that the big picture number this year is \$110,000. To get there we need to bring in 142,430 because the fundraisers have costs. The big costs to PTO are the Johnson Bros fundraiser (which does bring in money), Esprit de Corps, insurance, babysitting for meeting, Canoe Island, and some banking fees (for PayPal and square). We have money allocated for garden but we hope to get a grant to cover.

A question was raised about whether we still need to be paying for 5th grade water because it may or may not be happening. Melissa will check on this

They are looking at spending for program related items – art and music. We are looking at an artist in residence but options are still being explored but will be spent this year. There is also an expenditure for instructional assistance which is for Amity Interns. Eric wants 3.

There was a question about reserve funds. There is a plan to keep not go below \$10,000, but there is not mystery fund (as had been rumored).

A question was raised about the \$40 payment at the beginning of the school year. Those are class funds and are managed by Eric. They are being tracked more carefully this year. Teachers also get money from the district. This issue may be placed on the agenda at a later point.

We will be seeking \$40,500 in direct drive donations this year because we are not doing Innisbrook at the same level this year. You can still do Innisbrook online, though at:

- Go to www.innisbrook.com/friends
- Enter school # 106789
- Choose: Charlemagne
- Click “Click here if you do not want to assign credit”