

9.27.16

Spencer Butte Middle School PTO Notes

parents in attendance, along with principal Tasha Katsuda

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 by PTO President Sherrie Bandy. Introductions were made around the table.

### **Jen Doerr—Walk the Amazon**

- A lot has changed, mainly the date and plan for the Level Up incentive. We have not heard back about whether that can happen again this year. It was agreed that this was a popular incentive with the kids. Dorna Baumann said she will stop in and ask. If it can't happen, we need to come up with a new incentive. Maybe something special before activity night?
- We need more volunteers Day of. Please sign up with Jen. It is a fun day. Snow cones were a lot of fun last year.

### **Lisa Kinser-Wehr—Fundraising**

- Lisa shares a document that includes a description of all of our fundraising. These are an important part of our school operating budget that goes straight to classrooms. Close to \$60,000 is raised between the 3 events. We need leadership to step up to make them happen.

### **Sherrie Bandy—Leadership needs and communication**

- other PTO Leadership needed: co-president, co-volunteer coordinator, marketing/secretary
- The Facebook page is a great place for information. It is called SBMS PTO private group. It is searchable, but you need to ask to join. All posts are monitored by the site administrators.

### **Tasha Katsuda—Synergy**

- Tasha was prepared to give a talk about Synergy, but most parents were used to using it so we just had a brief discussion. It is easy to navigate and is a portal to your students world of grades, schedules etc.
- Parent Vue gives access to more information than Student Vue. It is the same information, plus a different link to teachers.
- There is a great app that many parents use
- There is now a feature that gives a list of announcements and events for each student.
- Not all teachers use Synergy the same. All of them use it for grades and attendance, but some use other programs that have more power and flexibility to interact with students on a regular basis.
- If you are not on Synergy you can get your personal access code through the office. You can then link to it through the District or SBMS websites.

### **Questions and Announcements:**

- Heather is on leave. There will be a sub in her place. The new registrar starts tomorrow.
- When does the building open? District policy is 15 minutes before class, but SBMS has traditionally been 7:30. Since there are no adults officially monitoring the students, this causes a safety concern. We do not have a lot of classified staff available to monitor halls in the morning and Parent volunteers can't always be there. There are discussions with the staff about how this will change. The gym and the cafeteria will be open before school.
- If teacher have office hours before school kids can get a hall pass to see the teacher.

- You can check out parent education books in the SBMS library. We have a nice collection of books just for parents that are related to the issues of raising middle schoolers.
- There will be no grades where core subjects will be skipped in the future. Staff has been doing a lot of studying on impact and tracking.
- Is there breakfast served? Yes — 15 minutes before school and at break, officially. The cafeteria often starts serving early if kids are around, unofficially.

### **Topics for future parent meetings?**

Please let Sherrie know if there is anything you want to know more about and that we can arrange to have presenters

- homework: the amount / support
- how to manage electronic devices
- requirements and preparing for high school and beyond. For instance: what math is needed to enter biology in high school and how to navigate the 2 years of Spanish offered at the Butte.
- Tasha commented that there is no research to show that algebra is necessary to take biology, but it is a requirement for South Biology. There are discussions going on between SBMS and South to help eliminate barriers to take these classes. They are doing this by articulating about our curriculum to let South know our students are prepared.

### **Possible topics for parent information nights:**

- Planned Parenthood in the spring to coordinate with curriculum for students
- Officer Ryan Wolgamot, South Eugene resource officer, perhaps in November as a follow-up from last year about keeping kids safe now and into high school around drugs and cyber safety. What are the issues parents should know about.
- Prevention Lane County for Teen Proof Your Home... perhaps winter (Feb?)
- Tara will follow up on speakers.

Respectfully submitted, Tara Sloan