



# Potomac Elementary School

## School Board Minutes

for

January 12, 2015

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*“Potomac School equips each student for his/her future  
within a culture of excellence that values the small community experience.”*

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### Call to Order

Board Chair Cliff Vann called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Gary Long, Craig Nelson, Jason Nordberg and Kelsy Ployhar. Jill Thornton, clerk, and David Allen, Principal, were both in attendance.

**Public Input** (for issues not on the agenda) Allyson Nelson shared a new term the PTC was supporting for their goal in deciding where to put their support for the school. Their term is ‘Action Education’ and the money the PTC will raise during Bingo will be used for that and technology.

### Consent Agenda

Jason moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

### Class of 2015 8<sup>th</sup> grade Trip Report

Cole Johnson presented the current itinerary for the Class of 2015 trip. Their first day of the trip will be traveling 10 hrs (665 miles) to Astoria, Oregon. On the way to Astoria, the group will stop at Multnomah Falls in Bridal Veil, Oregon. The second day the class will go to Fort Clatsop National Memorial and the nearby Pacific Ocean for some time at the beach. At the end of day two, the class will continue on to Portland, Oregon so they can spend day three at OMSI – the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. On the fourth day the class will visit the Portland Aquarium and the Oregon Zoo. The class is currently talking to the Aquarium and Zoo to see if they can get a ‘behind the scenes’ tour to learn more about them. Then on the fifth day the class will travel back to Coeur D’Alene, Idaho, spend the night, and go to the Silverwood Amusement Park on the sixth day. Late on the sixth day they will travel back to Potomac.

Estimated costs at this time are based on 10 students and 4 adults. The 4 adults are currently Sarah Schmill and Melissa McAuley. The other 2 adults chosen will be male. Food, hotel and activities costs are approximately \$4,600. The class does not have a cost for the bus yet. The dates they are looking at are May 15<sup>th</sup> through May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Current fundraisers are a chili bakeoff at Cullys, bake sales, and presentations to the Missoula Electric Coop and Blackfoot Telephone. Cliff said Andy Erickson has a list of last year’s donors.

Jason moved to approve the class of 2015 trip. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

The question was asked about what is going to be done with the leftover funds from prior year 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. The Board asked Jill to set up an 8<sup>th</sup> grade fund separate from individual classes that left-over 8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraising money can be deposited in for future 8<sup>th</sup> grade use. Jill will find or develop a form that 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes can sign to approve the transfer of left-over funds, and send it out to the Classes of 2013 and 2014. Cliff said he could get a list of the e-mails for the class of 2014 to Jill.

### Teacher Presentations

Sarah Schmill is facilitating an elective this semester for the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The class is through the Montana Digital Academy, which offers Latin, Spanish, German, French and Mandarin Chinese. Latin and Chinese are the elective offerings chosen this semester. The Montana Digital Academy classes are free, and have their own syllabus and a

teacher who can answer questions. These classes give the students an experience with languages that creates an interest in them to continue in high school.

Cliff asked if Sarah had difficulty with the classes due to their reliance on technology with some of the technology problems the school has been having. Sarah said it creates an additional learning curve since software is sometimes out of date.

Kristal Keroak, our Special Education teacher, wanted to let the board know that the number of students in the Special Ed program has been increasing. Her schedule has changed to let her devote more 1 on 1 time with the students teaching them to adjust behavioral problems. The book she uses is 'Zones of Regulation'.

Kelsy asked why the number of students has been increasing.

Krystal said this year the school is using a 'pull out' Title method, which brings the students into her classroom. Sarah added that some of the students have been on a 'watch' to see if they would benefit more from 'pull out' services vs. staying in the classroom, and some of them needed to be pulled out.

## **Principals Report**

### **School**

- Christmas program huge success
- Giving tree as well as Whole community outpouring
- Students went to an Elective Field trip
- Kristina went to spectrum science apart of UM
- Sarah, Melissa – mall chimes, springs assisted living
- Ruth to Zoo town Arts
- Geo Bee- Champion Kyla Nelson!
- Respect and Responsibility video
- MAPS and NAEP assessment tests
- Tech Plan with Joe
- Nancy Linnell

### **Activities**

- Discovery Ski trip
- Future Spelling Bee

### **Grants**

- Two teachers, Justine Luebke and Kristy Pohlman, have received the One Class at a Time Grant. The grants allowed the purchase of 3 Smart Board Projectors and 4 OSMO Ipad Play Systems, a kindergarten learning system that fosters social intelligence and creative thinking.
- Conversations are in the initial stages with Mr. McDonald concerning future grants.

### **Potomac School Technology Plan (Draft)**

Joe Swanson from Computer Guys came to a staff meeting to help Potomac put together an updated Technology Plan. The first draft he compiled from our discussions is below. From this point, he said he needed a spreadsheet with all tech equipment at the school listed to continue planning for specific current needs as well as future needs.

#### ***Funds:***

- *Establish a floating fund of \$ 3,500.00 per year for technology purchases*

#### ***Computer Equipment Replacement Schedule:***

- *Mac Notebooks: 10 per year*
- *iPads: 10 per year*
- *Desktops (PC): TBD (To Be Determined)*

**2015 Computer Purchases (Wishlist):**

- *5-6 Desktop PC's for second grade*
- *6 iPads and/or Mac minis for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 5 (mini iPads or iPads) for special Ed.*
- *Charge cart for notebooks (capacity of 50)*

**Work to be complete:**

- *Recycle Junk Equipment*
- *Server/ Labs areas are running to hot. Need to look into Air condition ideas.*
- *IP address issue – add second range?*
- *Check Terri's cables*
- *HDMI Cables for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Library: Easy way to connect to TV: (Internet google docs?)*

To start with, Joe is coming to the once a month staff meeting Fridays. He spends the beginning part of the day going to the teacher classrooms and hearing about any problems they have. Then he will spend the time necessary to correct the problems he can.

David Allen said he would work on the spreadsheet Joe needs to continue planning, and will have it by the February meeting at the earliest, the March meeting at the latest. Allyson said she would help with the data gathering.

**Board Professional Development Reports**

The Christmas Program was a big hit with all the Trustees! Outside of that, the holidays took precedence over Board Professional Development. Looking to next month!

**Personnel** – none

**Call for an Election**

Kelsy moved to call for an election. Jason seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

**Adjourn**

Board Chair Vann adjourned the Board meeting at 9:04 pm.

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Cliff Vann, Chair

date

Jill M Thornton, Clerk

date