



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

For

March 11, 2019

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

Call to Order

Board Chair Cliff Vann called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Gary Long, Craig Nelson and Steven Van Grinsven. Jill Thornton, Clerk and John Rouse, Principal were also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda) None

Consent Agenda

Minutes of February 11, 2019 were on the Consent Agenda

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$35,315.38. Total Payroll = \$67,693.84

Business Cards – Included in Total Claims noted.

Petty Cash – Supplemental to monthly warrants used between Board Meetings – Reimbursed thru Claims.

Extracurricular (Student Accounts) –On Feb 1, 2019 - \$35,877.02 thru Feb 28, 2019 - \$38,311.93

Steven moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0**

8th Grade Report

The 8th grade presented their current fundraising balance as well as estimated income from coming fundraisers.

Teacher Reports

Karry Betson talked about one of the New Orleans MCLP Conference sessions on ‘Genius Hour’. This starts with a child choosing what they want to learn with the statement ‘I wonder...’, then they research their topic before presenting what they learned.

Damian Gaglia also talked about ‘Genius Hour’ in the upper grades. One of his students is studying space and radiation through connecting with science experts. Two other students are writing musicals, including story maps and stage direction. He also was happy to have affirmation for what teachers in Potomac are already doing from the MCLP conference attended in Helena. And an Amplify update – now the students are doing informational writing.

Principal’s Report

All of the following activities and accomplishments would not have been possible without the full cooperation and engagement of all of the Potomac School staff members.

- **Teaching and Learning- MCLP Grant**

- On March 4th and 5th, five of our teachers and Mr. Rouse attended a MCLP grant meeting in Helena. One of the key presenters at this state-wide meeting was Jim Knight. Mr. Knight is a leading authority in instructional coaching at the national level. In addition to presenting two keynote addresses at this

conference, Dr. Knight met one-on-one with us for about 30 minutes. This was a great opportunity for our staff members to interact directly with a nationally recognized individual about our school and our students.

- Our staff members participated in sessions that focused on writing, vocabulary development, morphology, and addressing the social and emotional needs of students. Mr. Rouse had an opportunity to talk one-on-one with the superintendent of schools for the state of Montana as well. He thanked Ms. Arntzen for support of the MCLP grant project and provided her with some specific examples of how the grant funds have positively impacted our students and staff members.
- Over the next few weeks, we will be discussing possible innovative approaches we could use to enhance our efforts to improve literacy instruction and learning in our school. Should we be determined by OPI as being eligible for some additional funding for innovative efforts, we will submit an additional application for innovative grant funds.

• **Budget and Finance**

Jill Thornton will present an overview of our preliminary budget numbers for 2019-10 that are based on the figures released from the state. The numbers are preliminary because until the legislative session is over the values could change.

• **Student Activities**

- Our girls' basketball season is nearly over. The tournament starts on March 12th. This year's coaching staff included: Ashley Olsen, Christianna Taillefer, and Jesse Salter. We appreciate the efforts these volunteers have put in this season as to help our young ladies perform well on the court and off.
- Our track season will be starting soon. A copy of the track schedule will be included in your board packet. Our track coaches this year will be Ike Wallace and Beth Copenhaver.

• **Student Behavior and Discipline Review (Required Action)**

- We have submitted on required data elements to the state regarding student behavior and discipline. Fortunately, we had no incidents of serious disciplinary issues to report. In fact, I received a call from a representative from OPI who called to check on our response because it is rare that a school district has no serious disciplinary actions to report.
- Lunch Bunch- We have instituted a new effort to encourage students to complete their homework assignments on time. If a student fails to complete a required homework assignment, the teacher entered the student's name and the missing assignment into a Google document. Then each day during lunch, Mr. Rouse meets those students for lunch at a separate table. Those students are required to eat their lunches at this table and complete their assignments. They are not allowed to participate in lunch recess on those days when they are assigned to the "Lunch Bunch."

• **Facilities**

- The PTC has discussed adding an additional paved area to our playground. In connection with this, the Board's facilities committee needs to discuss the possibility of adding sidewalks around the south side of the main building in order to improve our accessibility for individuals in wheelchairs.

• **Safety**

- All of our "Stop the Bleed" kits have been fully equipped now with self-clotting gauze and elastic wrap tourniquets for small students.

Clerk Report

Jill Thornton presented an analysis of our current fiscal year budget showing all on track. Next year our preliminary General Fund budget is \$712,599.78.

Board Professional Development

Steven has been with the Explorers as well as with the Girls Basket Ball team when they attended the Lady Griz game. Gary has been tracking the legislature through the MTSBA emails. Cliff has also been with the Explorers group.

School Board Calendar

Put Student Behavior & Discipline in Principals Report.

Adjourn

Board Chair Vann adjourned the Board meeting at 8:44 pm.

Cliff Vann, Chair

date

Jill M Thornton, Clerk

date