

# FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTSA 2.18.15

## General Meeting Minutes

January 14th, 2014

Call to Order: Julie Luttinen

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm by Julie Luttinen, PTSA Vice President

Approval of Minutes: November 12th, 2013 PTSA General Membership Meeting: Karen Nieman

No corrections, minutes approved as written.

Guest Speaker: Dan Popp

### Background:

Dan Popp and his wife Kara Popp have been involved in the Fall City community for approximately seventeen (17) years. They are both highly dedicated to making the youth experience in education and athletics a positive one. Dan was appointed to the Snoqualmie School Board in two elections; one unopposed. Dan is very proud of the work that has been done in the district but also understands that there is always room for improvement and plans on continuing to be involved. Everyone on the School Board has the same dedication and commitment.

### Levy propositions:

It is going to take all of us to make sure people vote, it is important for all of us to remind our friends and neighbors about the importance of voting for the levy propositions. State and federal funding covers very little with regard to what is needed for the schools in our district to continue to grow and improve. That is the reason for the levies. The district counts on the local community to fund these programs. There is a lot of great support from the Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation but more support is needed through the local levies. February 11<sup>th</sup> is election day. Both levies are four (4) year levies. Education and Operations levy and Technology. SVSD revenue per pupil compared to neighboring districts is the smallest (\$8858). This number is derived by the number of needy children in the district. SVSD is the lowest district in Washington state (292<sup>nd</sup> out of 295). SVSD has a very small free and reduced lunch percentage so there is very little extra funding from the state. The good news is despite being ranked one of the lowest districts with regard to funding, the SVSD is one of the best run districts in the entire state. Historically the people in the Snoqualmie Valley community support the local levies and it is very rare that they are not approved. The Snoqualmie Valley is a generous and giving community.

### Education and Operations levy:

This levy replaces a similar levy that was approved in 2010 and expires in 2014. This levy will continue to drive programs that round out the educational experience for the students. This levy was renamed from the Maintenance and operations levy to properly reflect what it covers. This levy covers approximately 20% (24% of General Fund Revenues) of the funds state/federal does not cover. The special programs are the first to go if there are not funds to keep classes small. The approval of levies allow for the district to continue to offer students the special programs such as music, foreign language, and advanced placement classes. Ample funding is what is in the constitution and the State Supreme court says this is required. Dan Popp is optimistic that education will be funded better going forward due to the Supreme court decision.

### Technology levy:

This levy replaces a levy expiring in 2014. The state does not include technology in its definition of basic education. Replacement of the existing technology levy will enhance technology in areas that it is felt students will benefit. The SVSD wants to remain ahead in its investment of technology.

The levies are a conservative and reasonable ask for funds to provide good enhancements to educational programs. The ballots were mailed on January 24th. Levies occur every four (4) years and it is likely the SVSD will continue to drive levies in support of the SVSD schools. The McCleary Supreme Court decision should help the school districts to continue to see an increase in educational funding. This is the first time in many years the state is not facing a budget deficit in education.

Levies focus on the items inside the building (curriculum and staff)

Bonds pay for the infrastructure (roofs, repairs, capital improvements)

Levy funds are collected in the form of taxes levied against property value. Each taxpayer pays a small portion of the assessed value of the taxpayer's property.

#### Bond:

Over the last ten (10) years the SVSD have struggled with passing a bond (2003 was the last time) which was eleven (11) years ago. The freshman campus is going very well. There continues to be a mixed review on how the district can best accommodate the students and the student population as it continues to grow over the next ten (10) years. Full day Kindergarten and reducing class sizes in K-3 is slotted for 2016. There is also legislature looking at increasing hours of study from 1000 to 1080. This is class time, not increasing the number of school days from 180. Half day Friday removal could occur in the 2014-15 school year. In order to accommodate full day Kindergarten and the reduction of class sizes in K-3 in 2016, the district will need a total of 26 new classrooms which equates to a new elementary school. Additionally, the priority items also need to be addressed; a new gymnasium for Snoqualmie elementary-share gym with cafeteria currently. There are also a broad range of options on how the district deals with the number of students in the middle and high schools. The district needs a solution that is going to fix the three (3) middle schools to two (2) middle school problem. There is a lot of work to do and the School Board needs feedback from all the community members to come up with the right solution. Levies create a better education but so do the proper school buildings. The Snoqualmie Valley community needs to get behind a solution for the school buildings and it needs to be supported because it is the long term investment. The next opportunity to put forth a new bond is in April, August, or November. Those are the options for the next bond proposition.

Citizens for Schools (previously Valley Voters for Education): Kirk Harris

Kirk emphasized the importance of donations by the local PTSA's to help cover the expenses of the marketing materials to promote and advertise the school levies. There will be a phone bank beginning the last week of January and the first week of February. Volunteers are needed to call community members and remind them to vote. In the past, the levy has had a 60-68% passing vote. There are 20,000 registered voters and about half of those vote; 6,000 yes and 4,000 no votes. Any left over money from donations will go to fund the next levy campaign.

President's Report-Julie Luttinen on behalf of Kirsten Patterson

#### Voted on the 2013-2014 PTSA goals and objectives

Julie reviewed the goals with the members and asked for a motion to approve the goals. Sophie Harris motioned to approve the 2013-2014 PTSA goals and objectives. Michelle Ingalls seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A vote took place, all ayes. The motion to approve the 2013-2014 PTSA goals and objectives was adopted.

#### Reviewed upcoming PTSA events for remaining school year

February 4<sup>th</sup>: Savvy Parents, Safe Kids Parent Workshop, 7-8:30pm FCES Library: Refreshments and childcare provided

April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Birds and the Bees Parent Workshop, 7-8:30pm: Refreshments and childcare provided

March 6<sup>th</sup>: Annual Science Fair 5:30-8pm FCES

May 1<sup>st</sup>: Spring fundraiser: details will be provided at a later date

Treasurer's Report:Lori Kissick: Co-Treasurer

#### Fundraising status:

Total WAT donations: \$42,679.27 (no matching included)  
Confirmed matches (money that, for all intents and purposes, is "in the bank"): \$13,120  
Unconfirmed matches and expected to be collected: \$535  
Unconfirmed matches and not expected to be collected: \$470  
WAT + Confirmed matches = \$55,799.27  
\$14,701 short of \$70,500 goal.

Question on matching for membership dues: Microsoft minimum for matching is \$25. Some people combine their membership fee and their Walk-A-Thon donation and complete one matching donation form in order to meet the \$25 matching minimum. However, if a member purchases an \$18 family membership and purchases a teacher sponsorship for 10, that will also meet the \$25 minimum.

P&L and bank balances:

Checking: \$85,044.04  
Savings: \$2501.36  
CD's: \$18,009.13

Important Upcoming Dates:

- January 17<sup>th</sup>-Parent Play Day
- January 20<sup>th</sup>-MLK Day-No school
- January 21<sup>st</sup>-ET Meeting
- January 22<sup>nd</sup>-PTSA Council General Meeting, 6:30pm
- January 23<sup>rd</sup>-SVSD Board Meeting
- January 28<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade music concert
- February 4<sup>th</sup>-PTSA Board Meeting, 9am
- February 4<sup>th</sup>-Savvy parents, safe kids parent workshop, FCES Library, 7pm
- February 6<sup>th</sup>-SVSD Board meeting, 6:30pm
- February 7<sup>th</sup>-Parent Play Day
- February 11<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Music and Band concert, 6:30pm
- February 12<sup>th</sup>-Sahara pizza night
- February 17-21<sup>st</sup>-Mid Winter break-no school
- February 24<sup>th</sup>-Classes resume
- February 25<sup>th</sup>-ET Meeting
- February 27<sup>th</sup>-SVSD Board meeting, 6:30pm

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm