

# FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTSA 2.18.15

## General Meeting Minutes

March 12th, 2014

**Call to Order:** Kirsten Patterson, President

Meeting called to order at 2:02pm by Kirsten Patterson, PTSA President

**Approval of Minutes:** January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 PTSA General Membership Meeting: Karen Nieman  
No corrections, minutes approved as written.

**Guest Speaker:** Kirk Dunckel, Chief Kanim Middle School Principal

**Subject:** Transition from elementary to middle school.

### School Duration:

There are a number of changes for fifth graders transitioning to middle school. One of the biggest changes is that school starts at 7:45am and ends at 2:30pm Monday through Thursday. On Friday, the students get out for early release at 12:30pm. The doors to the school open at 7:10am and at that time there is staff to supervise the students. Students must be at their desks in a seat by 7:45am. Bus drivers are coordinated with so that they do not get to school before doors open. There is free time in the morning. Some students will do homework and some will go to their lockers or to the Library or Gym. No cell phones are allowed between 7:45am and 2:20pm and 12:30pm on Fridays. Students are not allowed to game during lunch.

### Classes:

There are four core classes: Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Each class is about sixty minutes long and the students will have the same teacher for Language Arts and Social Studies and Science and Math. There are two or three teachers that separate Math and Science. In addition to the four core classes, the students will have two exploratory classes that are forty-five minutes long. The students choose whether they will do Choir or Band or neither. The student decision to take Choir or Band will help determine their schedule. Choir and Band are all year long. The students have to take PE and Health in sixth grade. If a student does not sign up for Choir or Band they will do quarterly rotations with Art, Technology, Health and PE. For example, if a student is not in Choir or Band they may do more PE. There will be a parent night and math night in April. The students will also get a chance to go to Chief Kanim to tour the school and Mr. Dunckel will come talk to the kids about what to expect in middle school on April 28th. In the Fall the parents and students will be invited to tour the school together.

The students will have six classes during the day. Monday through Thursday there is an end of day enrichment class for thirty minutes. This is for students that need extra support in certain classes or to provide those students that do not need extra support a head start on homework. If students complete their homework, they are encouraged to read during this time. There are no enrichment classes on Fridays due to early release. The core classes are reduced to forty-five minutes and the exploratory classes to thirty minutes on Fridays.

### Communications:

Parents can use Family Access to check grades and assignments. The grades are available every two weeks. Teachers are available to talk at lunch time and parents can also send email or request personal meetings. Chief Kanim sends out a Friday email similar to the Friday Folder at Fall City. This information is also posted on the school website every Friday. Mr. Dunckel strongly encourages parents to go to the website and subscribe to receive the Friday emails.

### Lockers:

Each student will have their own locker and will need to purchase their own lock. The students will also have their own PE locker and will be required to purchase a lock for that as well. There is currently not a big theft issue.

### Space and size:

Chief Kanim had 440 students last school year. This school year there are 710 students. There are 750 students projected for next school year. Chief Kanim is a highly functioning school. There will be approximately 250-260 incoming sixth graders. The sixth graders have their own wing. The schedule is varied by grade. The sixth graders go to class at 7:40am and have a thirty minute lunch. The students are required to eat for fifteen minutes and then they can have fifteen minutes of free time. The seventh and eighth graders have their own schedule.

#### Sports and Activities:

There are many clubs and sports activities for students to join at Chief Kanim. The sports vary by season and by grade. There is an Activity bus that goes from Chief Kanim to Cascade View Elementary School on Snoqualmie Ridge. If a student does not live on Snoqualmie Ridge, they must have their own transportation for after school activities and sports. All activities are fee based. Transportation from school to after school sports events is provided. Parents have to pick up from these events, there is no transportation provided back to the school.

#### Placement:

There will be new programs with the new common core standards. There is a new state test this school year which will be taking the place of MSP in Math and Language Arts called the "Smarter Balanced Assessment". Both the elementary and middle schools will be piloting this test in the Spring. No data will be provided to the district this school year. The state and district will only get data on how well the test worked. The pilot will allow the teachers and students to get familiar with the test so that they know what to expect. The first time student test results will be available will be next school year.

#### Math placement-6<sup>th</sup> grade:

The math placement will put each student on a track for math from sixth to twelfth grade. There will be some potential to do some moving and skipping based on feedback from teachers and parents.

There will be a new Spring assessment given to all fifth graders and this will be talked about at the parent math night in April at Chief Kanim. There is not an accelerated path for the other subjects because they are already achieving at the highest standard. The new math tracks put the district on par with all the surrounding districts.

For incoming sixth graders there will be two tracks: common core 6<sup>th</sup> or common core 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. This is what the placement test along with some other test score criteria will help determine for the current fifth grade students.

#### New math curriculum:

There are two math programs being reviewed and a decision will be made by the math committee. Once a decision is made, parents will be informed. The common core is not only changing what is being taught but how teachers are teaching. The text books may be the same but how it is taught will be changing a lot. There will be more problem solving versus lecturing and more collaboration and group discussions. There are not enough text books for every student. Text books will be provided to take home if needed but the text book information is also available online to look up.

#### Student communication tools:

Edmodo and School Wires are both being used. Feedback from parents has been that it would be nice to have one consistent tool that all teachers use. Next school year there will be one communication tool used by all teachers.

#### Typing skills:

Typing skills are taught in the technology quarterly rotations. If a student needs help with typing, they can also use the seventh period enrichment time to get help with this. The typing skills class is also available online.

#### No zero's policy:

Chief Kanim developed a homework lunch program about eight or nine years ago to ensure that all students were completing their homework assignments. If a student is missing an assignment, their teacher will make a reservation for the student to complete their assignment during the homework lunch program with a counselor. This process has been working well for students and the staff and Chief Kanim has seen an improvement in student grades with this program. Students are learning the importance of responsibility and accountability which are two great life lessons. Parents are notified if a student has been in the program two days in a row and if it becomes a chronic issue, the student has to stay after school for two hours.

#### Homework:

Parents should expect their child to have ten minutes of homework for every year in school. Parents should expect at least one hour of homework a day in sixth grade. The teaching teams do a good job of coordinating to ensure that there is not too much homework due at the same time (projects, etc...). If your child is spending more than one hour a day on homework, then there is a problem.

#### Foreign language:

Rosetta Stone is still being used for eighth grade rotations. It is not available for earlier grades until the staffing is available and it can be added to the seventh period enrichment.

#### Technology:

The school has enough computers and now that the technology levy passed, this is sufficient. Students can bring a laptop to take notes if they would like but laptops are not required.

Awards and Recognition:

Honor roll and awards for perfect attendance. There is also recognition for students who have improved their grades from second trimester to third trimester.

**President’s Report:** Kirsten Patterson

- Nominating Committee Election of Officers:  
Election of Officers for 2014-15 school year: Karen Nieman, Secretary, read from section 6 of the WSPTA Bylaws; Officers and Their Election. Lori Meyer, chair of the nominating committee, read the nominating committee report and handed it to Kirsten Patterson, President. The nominating committee placed a nomination for Carrie Ahlstrom as President, Renee Christensen as Vice President, Michelle Ingalls as Vice President, Debbie Wetherbee as Vice President, Krista Jordan as Secretary, and Kimberley Lobet as Treasurer. There were no other nominations from the floor and the nominations for President, Vice President(s), Secretary, and Treasurer were declared closed. The WSPTA Bylaws state that where there is only one nominee for an office, the ballot may be dispensed with and the election held by voice vote. The following officers were presented for the 2014-2015 Executive Committee and a voice vote was taken: Carrie Ahlstrom, for President, Renee Christensen for Vice President, Michelle Ingalls for Vice President, Debbie Wetherbee for Vice President, Krista Jordan for Secretary, and Kimberley Lobet for Treasurer. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and the “ayes” won with no opposition. The above named officers were elected for the 2014-2015 Executive Committee.
- Review of upcoming events for remaining school year:  
The PTSA will be holding a Spring fundraiser on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 6:00pm. The last PTSA General Membership meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The PTSA will be hosting a parent seminar on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> on the “Birds and the Bees” at 7:00pm.
- Golden Acorn Award Nominations:  
Accepting nominations for volunteers who have gone above and beyond their volunteer duties. The deadline is Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> to submit a nomination.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Chris Williams

- Bank Balances:  
Checking: \$101,730.74  
Savings: \$2501.48  
CD 1: \$6008.84  
CD 2: \$6008.84  
CD 3: \$60004.99  
**Total: \$122,254.99**  
No Effort fundraising has been going well. Mixed bags brought in about \$4k and there has been some surprise cash received from FCES families who have donated money to the PTSA through a Microsoft payroll deduction.

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

March 12 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photos
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	SVSD Board Meeting, 6:30pm
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Play Day
March 17-18 <sup>th</sup>	Kindergarten Conferences-No school
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Concert, 7:00pm
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Schools Foundation Luncheon, 11:30am
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	SVSD Board Meeting, 6:30pm
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Board Meeting (MPR)
April 7 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break-No school
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sahara Pizza Night
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Classes Resume-Back to school
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	SVSD Board Meeting, 6:30pm
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Play Day
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Birds and Bees Parent Seminar, 7:00pm
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Music Concert, 6:30pm
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Spring Fundraiser, 6:00pm
May 5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	PTSA General Meeting, 7:00pm

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 3:16pm