

Jerabek FFO Meeting Minutes

Friday, Sept 2, 2022

In person and Virtual Meeting

Present: Sharon Camarillo, Dr. Watkins, Megan Blom, Robyn Ise, Alison Ragus, Beth Kay, Valerie Lew, Jessica Yoon, Alma Del Pego, Lisa Bologna, Lori Cannon, Kathy Jones, Lindsey Smyres, Jan Coppola, Kristin Burer, Emily Caballero, Holly Hanks, Gracie Modica, Michelle Berkowitz, Sophia Lesberg, Katie Rich, Kari Fields, Stephanie Ward, Vanessa Neville, Rita Gaskill, Clarisse Gray, Lindsey Hanlon, Carl De Luca, Joana Santiago, Derrick Santiago, Kim Nocella, Kelly Osentowski, Jaime Krause, Jessica Sanfelippo, Allyson van Eldik Thieme

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 8:02 by S. Camarillo. A quorum was present. A. Del Pego motioned to approve minutes from the last meeting. L. Hanlon seconded the motion. All approved.

1. Teachers' Report

- a. Lori Cannon (K)- Six teachers this year, two UTK and four kindergarten. Leader in Me is alive in kindergarten, encouraging them to be proactive by packing their own backpacks, snacks, and getting their water. Teaching independence, we love you parents, but we need you off campus when the bell rings. Thank you for everything.
- b. Valerie Lew (1)- So much wonderful, positive energy coming from parents and families. Seeing you all on campus has just been wonderful. We are also working on Leader in Me. It's quite the transition from Kindergarten, but so far we're off to a great start.
- c. Beth Kay (2)- Although I love being here, Ms. Brizard will most likely be taking over this role. Thank you, this is wonderful and probably one of the biggest turnouts I've seen at an FFO meeting. Second grade is jumping right into leader in me and the curriculum.
- d. Alison Ragus (3)- We're also doing Leader in Me, it's a great way to get to know the students, as well as create a foundation for the year. Having parents back on campus for Back to School night and back in the classroom has been so wonderful.
- e. Lisa Bologna (4)- We had a wonderful first week. The fourth grade team is really pleased with the students. We've spent the first few days of school focused on Leader in Me- reading applicable stories, celebrating our differences and the importance of accepting others. We've jumped right into math. We're doing read alouds, working on routines, and doing some team building.
- f. Alma Del Pego (5)- We had a great back to school night. Several parents in attendance and they were very supportive of us. Currently we have three teachers handling 109 students. Leader in Me is going great. Students are setting great goals for the year.

2. Principal's Report: Dr. Watkins

- a. Thank you parents, it's been so wonderful seeing you on campus. At 8:30 we do want you to go, but it's been beautiful this week as we return to a sense of normalcy around campus. Parents, we appreciate that partnership. UTK and Kindergarten parents, as a reminder, we do need you off campus when the bell rings unless you are coming in to volunteer. Starting on Tuesday, Ms. Blom and I, along with a few other office staff will be stopping parents at the lines. All of our upper grade parents have been doing a really nice job of getting off campus before the bell rings.
- b. I'd like to introduce assistant principal Ms. Blom to any new families. She will be here 5 days a week.
- c. Volunteers- as long as you are vaccinated you can volunteer in the classroom (no booster required). If you are not vaccinated, you still can volunteer in other capacities and/or in the classroom on a case by case basis depending on whether the teacher and I are comfortable with that. If you are not vaccinated and would like to volunteer in the classroom, discuss with me and I will have a conversation with the teacher.
- d. 5th grade reorganization- Jerabek is growing. We ended the 2021/2022 school year with 602 students, we are now up to 678 enrolled students. The majority of new students are brand new to our area. As a result, we need an additional 5th grade teacher and are working with HR to acquire one. Unfortunately, fifth grade parents, there will be a reorganization. Currently working with our 5th grade team to weigh in on whether we reorganize once or twice. We are trying to decide whether we give the temporary teacher a room or just have them support the rest of the 5th grade team. The reason being, when we get that individual, we will only be getting him/her for 3 months. There is a reorganization across all school campuses across all districts that happens in October. Schools like Jerabek that have an increase in student enrollment get new teacher/s, whereas others whose enrollment drops, lose a teacher. There is a balancing of teachers (in order of priority) that must occur. The person that will be here before then, will be more like a sub, that has been given a 3-month contract from the district (low seniority). After the 3 months, we will get a teacher who has higher seniority (then someone with only a 3-month contract), but lower seniority at their current school.
 1. J. Coppola- couldn't we at least split the students now into a classroom?
Ultimately it will be the same group of students that gets the new teacher/s and because 5th grade moves it almost seems more important that the students get to know their peers rather than their teacher (since they get them all anyways). Dr. W- if I move the students now, then those students would have to have the temporary teacher (rather than utilize that teacher as floater), only to have a new teacher again in three months. Those are the conversations I am having with the fifth grade team.
 2. G. Modica- Do you have any idea as far as timing as to when the 5th grade reorganization will be addressed? For the purposes of Square 1 Art and other class associated labels? Dr. W- we are waiting for HR to tell us when that teacher can start.
 3. A. Del Pego- G. Modica, just indicate the student's current 5th grade teacher and when we reorganize, we will insure it follows the student.

- e. Because we are expanding, B18 is now a classroom. Unfortunately, fifth grade ArtCorps on Wednesdays will have to be in their classrooms. The ArtCorps room (B19) will be unavailable during that time due to VAPA.
- f. Leader in Me has been phenomenal, every single grade and classroom is implementing it. You will see consistency across the grade levels. In addition, you will hear myself and other staff members use the verbiage. There will be a parent component at some point, but for now we are starting with students.

3. President's Report: S. Camarillo

- a. FFO board introductions.
- b. Still looking for a president elect, please let us know if are interested and or have a recommendation.
- c. Back to school night was wonderful, lots of new faces and there was just this warmth. Thank you, teachers, for giving out FFO information.
- d. Volunteer updates-
 - 1) Halloween costume sales- We need a volunteer to handle collecting costumes and then selling them.
 - 2) G. Modica will be taking on a brand-new role of handling appreciation for support staff (Ed Specialists, Behavior specialists, etc).
 - 3) Ranch Roundup- in need of a Ranch Roundup chair. Last year was J. Coppola's last year in that role and J. Sanfelippo will be volunteering with Spring Fling. J. Sanfelippo happy to advise.
 - 4) STEAM Performance Improvement Specialist- FFO is helping fund a STEAM support lead. This is not a volunteer position, but a paid part-time position (19 hrs/week). Dr. W will handle the hiring. Individual hired would work within the existing STEAM lab schedule.
- e. Budget- there is a shortfall. V. Neville- just to clarify, we are funded for the entire year and can afford everything that we have budgeted for this year. If we plan on doing all the same things we have budgeted for this year for next year as well, we will need to raise ~\$14,000 more.
- f. Thank you R. Ise for your guidance, very grateful to be in this role and work so closely with our admin.

4. Pledge Drive: C. Gray

- a. Pledge Drive starts on Monday, September 5th and will run through November 4th.
- b. Printouts will be provided to the teachers to be distributed to the students on Tuesday.
- c. Bi-weekly raffles and one big raffle at the end.
- d. Point parents to the FFO website if they have any questions.
- e. Goal is \$100,000.
- f. K. Fields- now that families are allowed back on campus, is there going to be some sort of visual reminder? C. Gray- In addition to the reminders in the newsletter, there will be a tree with a Koala. Leaves will be added throughout the drive to represent the amount collected. We just need to determine a location. Dr. W- One of the bulletin boards in the quad.

5. Running Club/Newsletter: S. Lesberg

- a. Running club unofficially started on Tuesday, August 29th in a Run for Fun format.

- b. September 12th, we hope to officially start counting laps.
- c. Parents are invited to run with their student.
- d. We've had to give a few reminders about the rules that students may have forgotten over the summer, but overall, it's going well.
- e. Volunteers- we could use more volunteers. Protecting the gate, insuring only parents with students are entering, has been a top priority. In addition, volunteers help keep us all safe on the track. Once we start scanning, volunteers will assist with that as well. Eight volunteers per day would be ideal. Right now, we have about six to seven per day.
- f. G. Modica- Just as a reminder to parents, the back gate will close at 8:30 for security reasons. We will not open, you'll have to exit through the front gate. Dr. W- I've asked S. Lesberg and running club volunteers to enforce. School starts at 8:30, students should be in their classrooms and parents should be off campus by this time. Your student is considered tardy if they are not in their classroom by 8:35.
- g. Jerabek Weekly Newsletter- please email updates for the newsletter by Saturday at 2pm.

6. Movie Night: K. Nocella, C. Stepien

- a. K. Nocella's last year as Movie Night chair.
- b. Movie- Sing 2
- c. Friday, September 30th, at 5:30pm. Movie will start at sunset (6:45pm).
- d. Food- Chili Peppers, Pazzos (whole pizzas or by the slice), and Kona Ice available for purchase. Popcorn, water, and glow sticks provided at no charge.
- e. Flyers should go out soon and posters will be hung next week. It will be announced through the Jerabek weekly newsletter, room parents, etc.
- f. J. Collins and C. Stepien will be shadowing to take over for next year.
- g. Dr. W- Last year we had one community member that emailed me regarding the noise level. They weren't upset, just would've liked a heads up. Any suggestions on how we could get the word out to the community this year? S. Camarillo suggested a paper notice on their door to avoid broadcasting the event to the entire community. Simply notifying the 10 or so surrounding neighbors. Indicate Jerabek is hosting a movie night (showing Sing 2) and event will be over well before the city noise ordinance of 10pm. G. Modica proposed re-positioning the screen on the field so the noise isn't directed towards the houses that would be most impacted. K. Nocella and her committee will evaluate the best location for the screen depending upon conditions of the field, etc. Parents liked the setup last year as it allowed them to see the gate/street. Dr. W- will request campus police patrol during the event.
- h. UTK/Kindergarten Popsicle Meet and Greet was very successful. Event was held on two different Sundays with more than 100 popsicles given out on each day. Spirit Wear made some sales and ArtCorps was able to recruit some volunteers. Proposing a UTK parent from the previous year, host the following years event (when their student is in Kindergarten), to keep the event flowing and successful each year.

7. Art Corps: H. Hanks

- a. This year we have an Art Corps team.
- b. Theme- Embracing Diversity.
- c. Same format as previous years with the three clusters (UTK-1st, 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th), but this year we will have five lessons instead of four.

- d. Orientation for volunteers will be on September 23rd, at 9am in the multipurpose room.
- e. Two volunteers will be allowed to help with the Art Corps lesson at a time. A classroom can have up to ten volunteers if they utilize two different volunteers per lesson. If you have a classroom with veteran ArtCorps volunteers, this may be an option. Dr. W- volunteers can cross classrooms, unlike last year.
- f. Program lessons begin in November and end in March.
- g. Volunteer needs-
 - 1) volunteer to shadow H. Hanks.
 - 2) San Diego County Fair art coordinator. Will work in conjunction with the Art Show coordinator to select art to be displayed during the fair. The fair does end after the school year is over so they would be responsible for retrieving the art from the fair and distributing back to the students.
- h. Family Art Night-
 - 1) Three different nights, the first being on October 27th.
 - 2) Two coordinators- Shellya Nevarez and Dana Meerschaert.
 - 3) 30-35 spaces for each lesson.
 - 4) We will work off a waitlist if families who sign up decide to drop-out. These events fill up fast.
- i. Art Show-
 - 1) Two nights. The first night will happen during the lower grades open house and then the next night will be a stand-alone event so the rest of Jerabek families can attend. It will not be in conjunction with Ranch Roundup this year.

8. Business Sponsorships: S. Ward

- a. Not a whole lot to report. We've received a couple verbal's from Emma Lefkowitz, Brian Tague, and Charlotte Young. In communication with K. Nocella about Charlotte Young sponsoring movie night again and possibly parts of Read Across America. In need of sponsors for Running Club. Parisi Speed School, Eat the Frog, and 24/7 supported running club last year. I will be talking with Parisi again. Eat the Frog does not have a lot of money in their budget this year, however, they are offering a free Sunday Night boot camps for students, with proceeds being donated back to schools.
- b. J. Coppola- is there anything that shows us what the level of sponsorships are? S. Ward- not that I am aware of, it seems that it's been on a case-by-case basis. I would love a visual tier to be able to present to potential sponsors.
- c. E. Cabellero- How many sponsors are on the newsletter? S. Lesberg- I've already removed them; it's a new school year and we don't have sponsors yet.
- d. Members discussed how certain levels of new sponsorship tier system could include logo in the weekly newsletter.
- e. D. Santiago recommended as an extra incentive and at a higher level of sponsorship, offering exclusivity around certain events in the newsletter (or other forms of advertisement), until the event runs.
- f. G. Modica suggested there be better communication to event chairs (or those creating the flyers) about who is sponsoring the event so it can be included.
- g. S. Ward- it's important that I know event timing of flyer prints so I can share who sponsoring. S. Camarillo- we can create a shared google sheet with event sponsorship information.

- h. Physical presence could also be offered to sponsors as was done with Ranch Roundup.
- i. Dr. W- Flags/Banners can be hung on on-campus fences, but NOT on the outside gates lining the school.

9. Budget Report: V. Neville

- a. J. Coppola asked on behalf of K. Burer if there are guidelines around classroom grants (\$500 and \$650) and how the funds can be spent? R. Ise/ Dr. W- there are guidelines. S. Camarillo- every year the FFO president sends a letter to all the teachers about what would be approved for classroom grant reimbursement. This is also done with the grade level grant. Dr. W must give permission as well. Letters just went out and also specify what things will NOT be covered.
- b. K. Fields- is candy allowed on campus? Dr. W- let me tell you what I just told the entire staff. Once a month, classrooms can celebrate all student birthdays (that fall within that month) with 100% fruit juice popsicles. Goody bags can be handed out with little trinkets, but still cannot include candy.
- c. V. Neville- in general classroom grants are being used correctly. During the pandemic, there were a few atypical things that came up like earbuds for students to use with their computers. Grade level enhancements should be used for things like field trips, Julian Mining Company, Gold Rush, Coach George, BizTown, etc.
- d. E. Caballero- what are targeted intervention funds spent on? Dr. W- we hire retired teachers specialized in reading instruction (with a strong instructional support background) to pull out small groups of students who do not have an IEP, do not have a learning disability, but are not reading at grade level. We call this targeted intervention, and we hire one teacher per grade level. We are going to try and resume math targeted intervention this year as well. Targeted intervention starts the last week in September.
- e. E. Caballero- What about campus aides and library assistants? Does the FFO pay for the librarian? Dr. W- Yes, along with the library techs. These are all expenses that if it weren't for our families, we couldn't pay for. We would not have a library without FFO funds. Teachers would have to have their own libraries in the classroom. The district doesn't supply funds for this. Jerabek is given \$25,000, \$11,000 comes right off the top for the copy machine. K. Fields- could we highlight things that are funded by the FFO in the newsletter. There are so many families that have no idea that the FFO funds things like the library and library staff. S. Camarillo- I think we could improve communication especially during the pledge drive. Once a week highlighting FFO funded areas like the Library and Ms. Ruth. Possibly even short videos. S. Lesburg and C. Gray, I will get with you to work on the newsletter and getting that info out into the Jerabek community.
- f. Dr. W- S. Lesburg, can you please let parents know (through the weekly Jerabek FFO newsletter) that if they did not receive the Jerabek Community Newsletter from Dr. W on Thursday, then we need their correct email address.
- g. G. Modica- we should send out an email blast letting parents know how to get signed up for the newsletter.
- h. J. Coppola suggested we look into getting Peachjar. A central hard drive that all flyers go through. Once the principal approves it, parents can then log in and see the flyers/upcoming events. Marshall Middle School is using it. R. Ise to research cost, etc.

- i. V. Neville- It was cheaper this year to order the entire Engage NY package, rather than to piecemeal it together. Dr. W- Kindergarten all the way up is using Engage NY.
- j. V. Neville- also want to mention the FFO pays for the STEAM Coordinator as well.
- k. J- Coppola- in regards to salaries paid by the FFO, in the past we were required to commit to three years, is that still a requirement? Dr. W- the district keeps track of when the three years lapses, but regardless we do a letter every year. Also, each year those positions get a small raise.
- l. R. Ise re-emphasized that we are covered this year; this is just an estimate. Our budget is very conservative as we over estimate expenses and underestimate the revenue. Most likely areas like Ranch Roundup (which brought in revenue last year) will do it again this year and it will take care of any deficit.

J. Coppola motioned to approve the proposed budget for 2022-2023. K. Fields seconded. All Approved.

10. Open Topics

- a. L. Hanlon introduced new FFO members Joana and Derrek Santiago (whom work for Terra Lawson and Three Treasures).
- b. M. Berkowitz (yearbook update)- we've increased the number of pages this year due to the influx in students and events. Hopefully we will have more of a team. Last year we ordered 300 yearbooks and had to order 153 more. Forty remain unsold and we will distribute to the teachers who may not have one. We need to commit by September 15th to lock in the price. Estimating ordering 450, which sets the price at \$29.18 per book. Not looking to conflict with pledge drive but hoping to offer an early bird price of \$33 for those who place their order before October 31st. Afterwards, we will sell for \$40. S. Camarillo suggested a "thank you to our sponsors" page.
- c. Discussed yearbook incentive for the Pledge Drive (for every \$500 donated, receive a free yearbook).
- d. E. Caballero- Birthday marquee signup fills up so quickly, is there somewhere else we could put names? S. Camarillo- First come first serve. K. Fields- It's a pain.
- e. Welcome A. van Eldik Thieme

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 by S. Camarillo

Respectfully Submitted,

Lindsey Smyres

FFO Secretary