

Manning PTA General Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2017

Introductions: Language Arts teacher Anita Claussen introduced Principal Jeena Williams and Vice Principal Chris Quiroz.

Both Anita Claussen and Jeff Hageman will be involved in PTA this school year.

Principal's report:

Staff is focusing on 6-8 model transition and how to continue to offer the great programs and education Manning traditionally offers. Jeena welcomes family involvement in this process. The hope is to increase the size of the school proportionally so that equal numbers are admitted and numbers can stay where they are in the upper grades.

On a district level regarding the move of 6th grade to Middle Schools- Over 70% of US students are grouped with 6-8th grades- partly because of added value to a 3-year program. In addition, parents want electives/ different course offerings available to 6th graders.

Modular buildings and inside buildings will be used for next year. Safety cited as a possible concern for modular building use.

What should Manning keep doing?

- Devices- Christine feels strongly that devices are too disruptive, and would consider pulling families if BYOD implemented. Supplying chromebooks through the school/ classroom use is fine, but could incur additional costs.
- Mathematics/ Saxon math program- Is it as successful as other programs? The structure in Saxon teaches good habits. Can we look at the data from Bell regarding success in mathematics? Some feel so strongly that they would pull students if Saxon weren't used. It was shared that the counselors offer good support for students struggling with math.
- Should PE class be mandatory? PE is encouraged for Manning students, although students opting for year-long classes such as Band and Music theater can opt out.
- Teachers and parents agree that Access period at the end of the day is excellent.
- Lunch by grade is good.
- Continue with strong discipline.

What should Manning stop doing?

- Dress code: Possibly too strict- current dictates for girls are fingertip length skirts/ shorts and shirts that go to the hip, which is somewhat different than what is written.
- Parents feel that the difference in release times before holidays and during testing is difficult for many families. A more consistent bell schedule would be helpful.

What should Manning start doing?

- Next year's seventh graders will also be new next year. We need to keep this group in mind so they are not overshadowed by the incoming 6th graders.
- WEB training- Where Everybody Belongs leadership group is a new group and can help with welcoming new grades.
- Consider how to structure electives for 6th graders. Should they be in the same classes as 8th graders, especially PE classes?
- High expectations and a positive, thoughtful approach by staff will make a 6-8 model successful.

President's report:

Thanks to all parents for supporting PTA during the year and for contributing at registration. PTA provided lunch for staff before start of school. Declan and the board encourage new ideas/ programs from parents.

VP position needs to be a 7th grade parent and offers a great opportunity to be involved and know what is happening at Manning. A Co-Presidency would be possible, and may be a positive addition.

Nominations for VP:

Christine Dempsey

The vote for VP is to take place in the next 30 days- interested people can run from the floor. There should be a discussion regarding the bylaws as far as adding 6th grade and how that affects officers and the structure of the PTA.

Committee reports: **Did I miss any committee chair news?**

The 6th grade transition committee will meet the 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:15-4:30. Cindy Jones/ Cora Rice will be parent voices.

Reflections committee: Kazan Clark will chair or co-chair.

Communications: The chair position involves emailing and coordinating information for eblast/ website/ Facebook: Susan Jeffries will chair and Shauna Fritzler will help when Susan is out of town (about once per month).

Fall Fest/ Auction: A chairperson or Co-chairs are needed. Anita Claussen can be part of the committee. Claire Cantwell will help as much as possible due to her move. We are waiting to hear back from some interested parents.

Auction will have school-focused items:

- Parking spots, lockers, choose your teacher items

- Themed baskets by access class for auction

New event possibility (though it has been part of Fall Fest in the past): School-wide writing contest winning work to be read aloud/ poetry/ band/ dessert bar/ costumes/ siblings

Battle of the Books: Chairperson to assist Karen Edoff/ Jeff Hageman: Tricia Chang

Talent show: Shauna Fritzler will chair

Yearbook: Karen Edoff is helping. Erin Perrin has offered to help with photography.

Treasurer's report:

Revised budget offered for approval- Motion to approve by Shauna and Cora, approved by unanimous vote

Spirit wear: Promote sales