

## **WGPTC Meeting 11/11/2021 – Minutes**

**Location:** via ZOOM, 6-7pm

**Attendees, board members:** Denise Thomas, President; Ana Archuleta, Secretary; Kristin Roby, Communications and Classroom Representative Coordinator; Christy Wood, Spring Events Chair

Absent board members: Carrie Wood, Vice President; Leticia Bernal, Winter Events Chair; Audrey, Treasurer

**Parent attendees:** Troy Lovata; Anita Babcock; Cozette Hansen; Michal Hayes; Ron G.; Mel Grover; Gyanu; Deborah Ungar; Alexandra Fleming

**Principal:** Karen Lindeen

**Meeting Called to order by President at 6:05pm**

### **Introductions**

### **Approval of October Minutes**

Minutes approved

### **Principal's Report: Ms. Lindeen**

Good to see parent faces, thank you for coming. Welcome to those who haven't been previously. Thank you for a fabulous Halloween for the kids everyone had a great time. Teachers gave really great feedback, enjoyed the format, and really appreciated the decorations and the effort to make the treat bags. The decorations were very special for everyone to walk into that morning and all was very well received. Several teachers asked to be able to continue the Halloween parade outside, so as long as weather cooperates we will continue that format.

Halloween unfortunately led us into a significant number of Covid cases. Been looking at other schools and there are increases there too. Most kids have been contracting Covid outside of school. There may be 2 current cases that were contracted within the school, either at after care or at lunch. We can speculate where kids are contracting Covid based on information that has been provided. From the outside I think parents are thinking that the Covid cases are really high because in some cases half a class may be at home quarantining. That is not always the case, we are keeping close contacts in quarantine as an abundance of caution to help prevent the spread as much as possible. Sending kids

home to quarantine is in order to stop this. For the most part parents have been very supportive. There are some parents that are less comfortable with what is being done. Covid has been the primary focus of our world for the past few weeks, keeping kids safe, working through contact tracing, keeping people informed. Have held several meetings to tighten things within our staff, i.e. flow of information get that tighter. We have to continue to tweak things as we go, and we are constantly learning as we go and as things develop and change.

Questions? What do we have in the classroom to minimize the aerosol droplets and help air flow? We will be keeping windows open in the winter and every classroom also has fans and some of the bigger spaces have air filters going, plug in HEPA filters. We have an older building so we can't go into the existing HVAC system.

Went to the link through the [vaccinenm.org](https://www.vaccinenm.org) for the upcoming vaccination clinic and couldn't get into the Desert Sage event, anyone know why? If it got filled up already it may have disappeared. Walgreens and CVS are also options for getting kids vaccines.

Is there anything that parents can do to support Ms. Lindeen and the staff? Something special for the teachers would be nice because teachers are having to work overtime to accommodate the kids that are absent, revise lesson plans, etc. Ms. Lindeen forwarded along some of the thank you's she has been receiving in the staff notes to let them know their hard work is appreciated. Would definitely be appropriate for the PTC to do something to thank the teachers. It's been tough, all of us are hoping to see the end soon. It feels like we are doing our best. Hopefully January will see a shift after kids start getting vaccinated. PTC will buy pies for all the teachers for Thanksgiving.

PED guidelines for quarantining will be changing. New plan is to offer test to stay, instead of kids staying home for ten days kids go to school and test on days 1, 3 and 5 and if there is a positive result then they are sent home. Ms. Lindeen has concerns about this new plan, how it will all get tracked, major concerns about kids being contagious. It seems as though this new procedure will be mandatory for all the schools to follow. Ms. Lindeen has a meeting with the district tomorrow and will hopefully learn more.

Attendance tracking has been difficult, tracking quarantine is all on the individual schools to do. Ms. Lindeen has gone back to deal with fixing absences that are due to quarantine, originally they were marked as unexcused. An example of the many starts and stops the schools are having to deal with.

A hole in Covid reporting that is a concern: in situations where a child has been identified as a close contact for a kid from another school. There is no communication between schools when close contacts cross between schools. This creates potential for a loophole if parents are not going to self-report. Is there any way that the district is looking at dealing with this sort of situation? With outside activities in general there is a lot of room for error. Soon they will be changing how we are reporting cases. Instead of getting the notifications that have been coming, parents will receive a link to the dashboard that will track all the schools positive cases.

We are also switching message systems to Remind. Any correspondence will now be email and text, no more robo-calls.

Cases where positive cases are identified on the same day that they were last at school, possibly those are kids that were symptomatic. Timing is all over the place with how and when close contacts are identified, definitely not consistent. Always remember to not send kids to school sick.

Any information you can share about how many kids are quarantining at home right now? The New Mexican shared some information about cases and kids in quarantine at the school. 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade had some outside activities that caused approximately half of the classes to be sent home. There are also some parents that are choosing to keep their kids home right now because they are scared about the increase in cases. Ms. Lindeen is keeping in touch with teachers about whether or not it would be better to just shut it all down, and so far the answer has not been yes. Ms. Lindeen is aware that the lack of information creates anxiety because there are more questions that are left unanswered. Not sure what they are going to do to identify or not identify kids that are vaccinated.

Student Council is also going and the kids are excited about it.

### **Treasurer Report**

Not a lot of changes so we will save it for next time. No Audrey.

### **Discussion of Installing Traffic Safety Measures with special guest, Michael Garcia**

We have a major traffic safety concern at the intersection of Webber and Booth. Dangerous spot where younger kids are crossing to get to the side yard school entrance. Only one stop sign at the moment and it really should be a 3way or 4way intersection. Would love to get stop signs on all sides, can we do one at the church parking lot? Stop signs or some other traffic measure to better control the flow of traffic in that area and help out the crossing guard would be ideal.

Michael Garcia, City Councilor, has begun the process to initiate a work order with the city, which is what is required to implement any sort of traffic changes. City had been without a traffic engineer for a long time so the list really piled up. There is a 6-8 month backlog right now because there was no one in the position. We can always try for the 4way stop sign, but we might need to involve the residences back behind that parking area in order for that to happen. We are in the queue but it will take some time. A traffic study will be required, at least for that intersection, but maybe important to do a study around the whole school. Presently they are looking at putting money into developing and improving the roads all around the South Capital area. The area has much older roads and will require much different reconstruction and therefore will require more resources. The roads in that area are hopefully going to get redeveloped and repaved. Speed bumps are another option to be looked at as well. Garcia generally asks for updates every other month on this sort of thing because there is not a lot of rapid

movement. Don Gaspar would be a more difficult location to add in stop signs because it is a more prominent thoroughfare.

Another area of concern is the driveway behind the school where 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are being dropped off, a dangerous spot where younger kids are crossing that driveway as well. One idea to help the area is maybe paint the driveway out of the alley to alert the walkers and also the drivers.

Another issue is people parking on both sides of the street on Webber so only one car at a time can pass. That is a dangerous hill from Buena Vista to Webber that can get very slick in the winter. Sidewalks along Webber and Buena Vista would also be nice. The ones that do exist are in disrepair and some are not there at all.

Important to look at everything including sidewalks, etc. because we want everything to be up to compliance, particularly for ADA need to bring everything up to code. Anything else that needs to get to the attention of the city, please reach out to Mike. Let us know how the PTC and even the kids can be helpful in moving this process along. At present they are trying to estimate how much money will come to the city and that will be the first steps so no way to really give a timeline at this point. Mike will advocate that funds go to the priority list and the neighborhood improvements in general for South Capital are currently number 7 on the priority list.

### **Afterschool Clubs Update**

Not the time to start new clubs while Covid cases are on the rise, but hoping we can get some things ready and lined up so that new clubs can potentially start in the New Year. Kristen's questionnaire will hopefully still go out soon to see what parents want and what they might be able to contribute.

### **Snowflake Drive**

Snowflake drive, Molly Masse put together a flyer and all the teachers were asked to send it home with classroom newsletters, it is also on the principals update and it is going up on the website. Ms. Henry made a winter scene mural that is currently blank and they will figure out a way to put on percentages toward the goal to fill in the scene as donations grow. So far donations are above \$1300. Kristen will update the Go Fund Me with details about what is happening in the school as far as a mural goes. It is off and running and donations of all different amounts are coming in. Set the goal at \$5,000 which is what we raised last year. One family has reached out about getting help and Ms. Lindeen found a list from last year so we can look at families from there to see who is still at the school. Thinking we may get some more families reaching out after the next week when flyers go home and the teachers will also be a great resource.

Are we still planning on doing the coin drive? Don't think so, but trying to find ways for the kids to feel like they are participating. Clothing or food drives an option, or toys for tots. Want to be careful to not

take away from the snowflake drive. Throw a pizza party for whichever class brings in the most pantry items for the food drive.

Gift basket idea to go along with the funds, we want it to be something separate that is donated to go along with the cash, so we don't use any of the donated cash for the gift baskets. Perhaps we send out an email ask for people who had things that could be donated, gift certificates, etc. or go to local businesses to see if they can donate things. Maybe classes could have students bring items in for the donation and each class be responsible for putting together a gift basket that then goes along with the funds raised through the go fund me? Classes could gather and bring in special things to contribute to the gift baskets. Could also get the classroom parents involved as well.

### **Open Discussion/New Business**

Laminator arrived and we need the appropriate rolls, but it is in process. Teachers are very excited.

**Meeting adjourned 7:07pm**