

PTA Association Meeting Feb 13, 2020

In attendance: Melissa Fortney, Kerry Cannuli, Katie Sherwood, Diana Carranza, Melody Porteous, Erin Hankins, Mischa Litvack, Heather Sammons, Jenny McCulloch, Libby Silvestri, Kaitlyn Zuber, Chris Zuber, Jennifer Dudley, Pam Stutzman, Danielle Miravalle, Erin Compton, Katrina Phillips, Kathryn Gonzalez, Julie Jacobson, Aleka Seville, Dave Jacobson, Sydney Sawyer, Suely Rodas, JP Rodas, Nihad Peavler, Suili Itcep, Veronica Lopez, Jen Matakuare, Mary Gembinski-Williams.

6:33

Review of minutes. Elena approves the minutes, Kerry seconds.

Principal's Report (Jennifer Dudley)-

Youth Truth Survey results are in and will be shared more thoroughly at a later time but Jennifer wanted to highlight that regarding safety, we are ranked in the 80th percentile, top in the district. Jennifer attributes this to the growing efforts to provide students with education in their social emotional learning. In March, the school will begin to educate the students on the LGBTQ community beginning with 3rd-5th grades then K-2. All students will read (or be read to) 3 books, with lessons for each book, to help promote acceptance and inclusiveness.

Teacher's Report (Pam Stutzman)

Day Of Play was a success-most of the kids played autonomously (without teachers support) and all had a great time.

Thank you to the PTA for support with field trips, Marin Symphony is helping with travel expenses to an upcoming field trip-thank you to them as well

Kris Cosca NUSD Superintendent- This is Kris' 5th year with NUSD, first as the Superintendent. Tonight he informed us on Measure A, the renewed parcel tax. The following are some highlights/statistics from his slideshow:

-The 1992 parcel tax expires in 2023, in 2009 households paid a \$251 annual tax which raised \$4.35million. As with before, this renewed tax can be waived for those over 65 and those on SSI and SSDI.

-This year NUSD made \$1.6million cuts to administration and non-instructional programs. Kris says that "if current local funding were to expire, additional \$4.1 million in cuts would be required."

-The new parcel tax would be \$376 at 3% annual inflation giving NUSD about \$2 million/year. It must be approved by 2/3rd vote and will last for 8years.

-The revenue would go toward expanding mental health services and "attract and retain highly qualified teachers." No money would go toward administration salaries.

-There will be an independent citizen oversight committee with annual audits and required reports to the community to be transparent about how the money is being spent.

-This Measure A is not to be confused with Bond G-the bond money with G goes strictly to facility upgrades.

-To put the money situation into perspective he informed us that on average the state pays about \$11,600 per kid in Novato. Whereas other Marin counties get much more, Ross \$21k, Bolinas/Stinson \$35K, and Sausalito \$50k all per student. Taxes are also different per county in that the state sets a number (X), if property tax is less than that amount, the state will give the county the remaining balance; however if the property taxes are greater than X, the state will let those counties keep both (their taxes plus the set X state amount), which sets lower income counties at a disadvantage.

Some questions were raised by the meeting audience including:

-What if it doesn't pass?

NUSD will try again, asking for less, decreasing the deliverables promised.

-How did you come up with the amount?

Kris says that they polled people.

-Will the money be distributed evenly?

There is no language that says the money will go to one school over the other. All teachers will get a raise. There is no real plan yet for the mental health portion because NUSD is also applying for a grant with specific services and they want to see if this gets awarded what services will still be needed after.

-What structures are in place to help kids and teachers more immediately and can we see change quickly?

Kris briefly discussed new special Ed programming in place and they are "trying to address this"

-Can we see district Wellness Committee coming back? (A program a few years back where they advocated for healthy food choices, positive teachers work/life balance, kids mental health and PE).

Kris was unaware of this program but says he will look into it.

This lead into a discussion about the new food service coordinator, Cody. Kris asked us to be patient that Cody is doing his best with all the contracts he inherited, he had increased participation in his previous role and now the secondary schools are up 20% in lunch participation. Regarding Wellness In The Schools (WITS), Kris was unable that they are not working with us anymore due to a decrease in wholesome foods offered this year, but he will look into it.

Lisa Swanson- with the Advocacy Campaign for Measure A asked for further questions and asked the PTA for their endorsement. Kerry moves to adopt the endorsement, Nihad seconds, all in favor. A \$100 donation will be made.

President's Report (Julie Jacobson)-

Feb 27th Thursday there will be a call night for Measure A if you are interested in advocating to the community please sign up.

Tour of Novato- Tezzy will be running this,

Triple P- a flyer was sent home regarding his, please sign up if interested.

Board Positions- There are some positions still available if you are interested please email Julie. We are creating a new advocacy position as well if anyone is interested.

Box Tops- we are in need of someone to help run the box tops program, if interested please email Julie.

Thank you to Jenny who has done a lot for the PTA and the Lu Sutton community, you will be missed!

VP Programs Report (Jill Stark)-

Valentines Social was a success, we raised about \$500.

Adult Night Out is April 24th. Marin School of Arts will come on campus to shoot videos of what the kids want with the money raised.

Financial Reports (Erin Compton and Theresa Nicholson)- Erin had to leave early and Theresa is not present to present the financial reports. Julie had some questions with the reports and did not feel comfortable presenting on their behalf so we will resume this next meeting.

Other Announcements:

Coffee with the PTA is March 4th after community time, if you'd like to come and ask questions or provide feedback all are welcome.

Nihad asked if anyone was getting her newsletters, as 500 were sent but only 77 opened them. She believes there are technical difficulties and they are going to people's spam boxes. She will look into this.

We briefly discussed the Marin Humane Society's work with reading dogs in our school. Mischa (whose mom is working on this) states there are a lot of logistical issues to work out but that she will push the Main Human Society to move quicker.

Adjourned 7:54

7:54