



Franklin School PTA August Meeting Minutes, August 22, 2023

In attendance: Troy Brandt, Amy Wright, Elisabeth McBrien, Mike Blouin, Kristen Reeve, Heidi Herring, Melody Johnson, Matilda Attalla, Jaime Luke.

Troy called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Principal's Report, Amy Wright:

- **Building Update:** Amy provided an update on the bond work. Electrical will be finished in the next week and other final finishes are being completed.
- **MS Teacher and Specialist Meeting:** All middle school teachers and the four specialists met today to discuss and prep for the year ahead. Amy said it was a very positive and engaging day.
- **New Middle School Teacher:** Michael Baker will be joining the middle school staff this year. He will teach two sections of 7th grade math and writing, and one section of 8th grade math. Michael previously worked at Bessie Coleman Elementary School, and his math and writing instruction is highly regarded in the district.
- **Dean of Students:** Roxie Huffaker will be joining Franklin as the Dean of Students. Roxie has a math background, and she was recently a member of the CSD team that reviewed the new math curricula. She has been with CSD for 25 years and most recently was the AVID/RTI Coordinator/Teacher at Cheldelin Middle School. Roxie will provide support to Amy and teachers, and she has a broad skillset that includes experience with academic intervention and applying behavioral systems to help students. Amy is excited to have Roxie join the Franklin team!
- **Instructional Assistants:** Lani Sherman (previously at Lincoln) and Autumn Jernigan (previously at Muddy Creek) will be joining Franklin staff to assist students and teachers. Lani and Autumn come to us with experience from other district schools.
- **Counselor, Mental Health Therapist, and English Language Learner Specialist:** Amber Paterson will be joining Barbara Sirianni to provide counseling services to Franklin students. Amber was recently with the District's WINGS transition program, a program for students between the ages of 18 to 21 who are eligible for special education and have not earned a high school standard diploma. Sara James will provide mental health services to students, and Maria Hopkins will join us as our ELL leader.
- **Campus Support Staff:** Lisa Conser (Kitchen Manager) and Keaton Young (Evening Campus Steward) will also be joining Franklin this year to provide support for our students and staff.
- **School Assemblies:** Amy is planning to hold school-wide assemblies on the first Friday of each month to build school spirit. She will also be continuing the character trait of the month program to celebrate exceptional student behavior and responsibility. Recognized students will receive awards.

- **Music:** Elementary Strings will be offered after school on Tuesday and Thursday. Middle School Band will be offered after school at Franklin on Monday and Wednesday. MS Band is likely to start in late September/early October.

Treasurer's Report, Kristen Reeve:

- The draft 2022-2023 financial summary and draft 2023-2024 budget were provided in the meeting packet for member review. We asked members to review and follow up with Kristen and Troy with questions or recommendations. Kristen is finalizing the 2022-2023 books and we'll plan on voting on approving the 2022 financials and the 2023 budget during the September meeting.
- Troy will reach out to the Corvallis Public Schools Foundation to request transfer of Franklin PTA-related funds from CPSF to the Franklin Chase account. Funds are in three CPSF accounts including Franklin PTA, Science Olympiad, and Washington D.C. The funds have likely been with CPSF for several years and we believe it is a good idea to reclaim the funds before they are forgotten about.
- We discussed setting up a second checking account at Chase that would be used for holding the Washington, D.C. Trip funds. This seems to be simpler than tracking in our Money Minder program due to the size of the D.C. Trip funds. Melody suggested looking into potential fees associated with account management. Members agreed to proceed with opening an account but asking about additional fees.

Committee Reports

- **Communication:** Matilda's Friends of Franklin Facebook page will again be a great source of up-to-date information on Franklin activities. Search for Friends of Franklin and join! Ms. Maxine Agather will be our point of contact for sending messages out through the
- **Dine Outs:** Matilda did an incredible job organizing Dine Outs last year, bringing in more than \$2,600 for PTA activities. Matilda already has six Dine Out dates on the calendar for this school year!
- **Enrichment:**
 - **Middle School Band** will be held at Franklin on Mondays and Wednesdays after school, probably starting in late September.
 - **After School Spanish** is still in planning and likely won't start until October once OSU students have been selected.
 - **Chess Club and Math Club** are unknown right now, but we'll follow up with Yalda and Nathan.
 - **Garden Club** will again be led to Elisabeth McBrien. Elisabeth asked Amy how best she can get in touch with teachers to offer support. We also discussed the CSD-planned irrigation system which should improve opportunities for garden lessons and for caring for a garden through summer. One idea is to encourage Franklin families to plan and care for the raised beds through summer. We also discussed planting a pink dogwood in the garden this fall in memory of Sarah Robertson. A

similar pink dogwood was also planted at Leticia Carson Elementary where Sarah worked. Elisabeth will contact the local nurseries to check on availability.

- **Beautification Committee:** Troy suggested a Beautification Day before school returns. Elisabeth said she would like to include the garden as well.
- **OBOB:** The PTA will purchase two sets of OBOB books for the 2023-2024 season. Heidi will see if we can use our Scholastic dollars earned during the Spring Scholastic Book Drive to purchase any of the books.

Old Business:

- **Franklin Bond Projects:** Nearly all bond work has been completed and the building will be ready for the first day of school.
- **Washington, D.C.:** We have a lot of dates for upcoming D.C. Trip planning meetings and getting the word out about the trip. Preliminary dates include:
 - Aug 31 – 6th Grade Picnic table
 - Sept 7 – WADC Committee Meeting
 - Sept 20 – FS Open House table
 - Sept 22 – BBQ table
 - Sept 28 – General parent meeting
 - Schedule bi-weekly meetings through fall and winter

These dates will provide both 7th and 6th grade families (and earlier grade families too!) to get moving on trip planning and fundraising. Jaime has sent out the first parent newsletter and the second newsletter will be sent out once meeting dates are finalized.

We would like to put together a Washington Monument visual aid to serve as motivation for raising funds for the trip. The Monument would be colored as funds are raised to help provide students with a visual cue on how the fundraising effort is going. This would also be a great way to get younger students excited about their trip in the future.

New Business:

- **Planned Activities for the Year:** The last page of the meeting packet includes the monthly activities that the PTA sponsors. We briefly reviewed the list and decided the activities looked great and we should continue with them. We briefly discussed Science Night promotion and planning and Pi Night. Mike suggested emphasizing to parents that the PTA makes all of these events happen and that is why we need a strong PTA and broader parent participation.
- **Succession Planning and Member Recruitment:** We discussed the number of critical PTA parents who will be graduating this year and the need to recruit more parents into the PTA in order to support our students, teachers, and staff. Without a strong PTA, many of the Franklin School traditions would not happen. We decided we need to be more proactive in letting people know what we do and what wouldn't happen without the PTA.

Troy mentioned recruiting teachers to join the PTA and having the PTA pay their dues. This would hopefully lead to more teacher engagement and PTA promotion to parents.

- **8th Grade Field Trip:** Troy mentioned planning an 8th grade trip this fall to Sunriver. Educational tie-ins would include a trip to the High Desert Museum, a tour with the U.S. Forest Service, and offering to do a service action with a local non-profit. Troy will prepare ideas and provide them to Amy for review and discussion. We also discussed a trip to Ashland in the Spring for Shakespeare.
- **Gaga Ball Tournament:** The Ashbrook School principal contacted Amy to see if Franklin students would be interested in participating in a Gaga Ball Tournament. More details to come.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.