

NOTES ON THE GOVERNANCE BOARD'S EMERGENCY MEETING ON FIELD TRIP MONIES

April 4, 2022

ATTENDANCE: Board Members: Rachel Frazee, Sue James, Shannon Ontiveros; Sam Fish, Katie Randall, Nancy Schaitel. Others: Dr. Wendy Bernett, Laura Carlson, Connie Jerome, Sue Loback. Absent: Megan Ellenz, Nikki Edmond.

The meeting began at 5:38 pm.

Laura Carlson, E2 teacher, gave us an overview of the fieldtrip being planned for the 55 students in grades 4th, 5th, and 6th grades at SMS. The trip would be on May 10, 2022, to Kickapoo Valley Reserve outside of LaFarge, WI. The Reserve has hiking trails, a nature center, and planned activities, including the 3 she and Sue Loback, the other E2 teacher, selected to complement their curriculum: orienteering, nature identification, and team-building. The field trip is about 45 minutes away, and it is expected that the school district will be paying for the bus and driver fee. It is a one-day event.

At \$10/student, the usual amount given a class, the amount is \$550; at \$12/student, which is what they would prefer, the amount is \$684. Parent volunteers pay for themselves. Four teachers go free (the 2 teachers and 2 assistants). Two others who work as specials would also like to attend. Students would sign up for a school bag lunch or bring a lunch from home.

Laura added that there is a huge need for more outside activities and more fieldtrips. She commented, "Prior to being at SMS, when we were at Meadowview, we probably averaged three field trips each year, more when we studied Wisconsin. This is why maybe E2 should have a parent field trip/ activity fee. I think it's a mistake to think CH, E1, and E2 should spend the same on field trips, although maybe families should supplement to make it more equitable." (The quote was shared with us via an email after the meeting.)

DISCUSSION

Connie Jerome: E2 did not go on any field trips last year due to the pandemic.

Sue James: It was \$10/student/yr. in the past. The PTO put aside monies for field trips or parent gifts/arts and crafts for the parents. We used to ask parents to contribute \$1 for a pool party at the end of the year; also for the pumpkin patch/apple orchard.

Sam Fish: Sam has 2 children and has always been asked to contribute to field trips, at least a portion of it. If someone could not pay, the Board talked about it.

Wendy: We haven't asked parents today because our district is high in free-and-reduced meals. But she recalls paying for some field trips and for safety patrol trips.

BUDGET REPORT FOR THE REST OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR WAS GIVEN BY SUE JAMES:

Grad pins & cupcakes; food for the Retreat; possibly the band event (yet to be discussed in May) . CURRENT BALANCE: \$10,243.92 Yet to pay High Point and reimbursement for Teacher Conference food. We deduced this budget down to about \$7,000.

FINAL THOUGHTS BEFORE THE VOTE:

Shannon: Asked if there is a roll-over limit for the following year (no, but it's a good idea, we concurred)

Rachel: Reminded us in August we will carve out a budget for the coming year.

Shannon: Suggested we allocate funds per student and each level can roll it over.

Sue J: We have never included teachers/assistants in the \$10/each. She also noted how the school forest provides a wonderful day of activities led by Joe Cook, German teacher at SASD.

Nancy: Explained what you could expect at the school forest-high remarks for it! The CH usually partakes of this site.

Sue Loback: She explained why they chose the Reserve: "It's a program that ties in with our curriculum."

Laura: Reminds us that all field trips must be directly part of the curriculum.

Rachel: If we allocate \$10/ch=\$1,850; and for \$12/child=\$2220. She makes a motion for \$12/student for all at SMS for the remainder of the school year and, if not used, it will go back into the Board account.

Katie & Sam seconded it.

The vote was unanimous for the motion made by Rachel above!

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Thank you ALL for your attendance and participation!