**Pathfinder PTSA General Meeting Minutes**

September 27, 2016 MEETING in the Pathfinder Library

Called to order by Odetta Owen at 6:34

Board Introductions followed by all attending parents introducing themselves

**Direct Give (Susan Elderkin)**

* Goal is $25,000
* 3-week campaign—donate to the PTSA and feel good!
  + Online pathfinderk8ptsa.org
  + Form in kid-mail, or get extra forms in office
* Tax-deductible donations, and some workplaces match donations
* PTSA funds about 100k of programs throughout schools including Creative Approach, Earth Project and Gardening Program, library books, musical instruments, stipend for each teacher, events, professional development for staff

**Principal’s Report (David Dockendorf)**

* School is working on implementing mindfulness in the school as a whole
* Official enrollment this year is 494
  + 11 down from last year but we didn’t lose staffing
  + However, no adjustment up in Special Ed
* Ramifications from Macleary hard on option schools, as we need to increase number of classes to maintain the same number of enrolled students as class sizes go down
* Starting year 2 of Social Emotional focus—staff focused on it during staff retreat
* Student climate survey data (3-8) not great; staff focusing on what pieces Pathfinder might be missing from the students’ perspective
  + Opportunity to survey students more than once per year, so Pathfinder will use that
* Each grade band will look at social-emotional competencies appropriate developmentally to their age to create a continuum throughout the school
* K-5 Math—Pathfinder is adopting a Math curriculum called Bridges which adheres to Common Core and eliminates the demands of picking the effective pieces from a variety of curriculums
  + David will be hosting a Bridges night to educate and address questions
* Curriculum Night—typically the attendees are also parents who are already involved; to encourage bringing in more types of parents, it is changing to an Open House form
  + Kids welcome
  + Roam around! Visit all children’s classes
  + Teachers available to talk—but should be able to talk with all parents, not get monopolize by parents
* New half-time tech position for K-5 and adding a Tech rotation

**What is Mindfulness and How Parents Can Use It (Andrea D’Asaro with Awaken to Mindfulness)**

Four Elements of Mindfulness

* Paying attention
* On purpose
* In the moment
* With kindness

Andrea’s presentation connected mindfulness with parenting as well as self-care for parents. See <https://www.facebook.com/awakentomindfulness/> for more information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32.

*Minutes submitted by Sigrid Brunet, Secretary*