



## April 26, 2016 General Board Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Kim Ambrose, Jen Meiring, Dawn Scheck, Andy Mareska, Deb Rempert, Mary Anne Callahan, Becky Paulin, Sue Minnec, Jan Wright, Marsha Stierwalt

Board Members absent: Matt Jeffrey, Nicholas Davis, Deb Nielsen

Other parents: Fatiana Stobaugh, Kevin Preas, Paula Lindeman, Melissa Dempsey (EC Rep), Leah Leman, heather Kwitschau, Jessica Gebhardt, Nata-Leigh Preas, Lisa Duchek, Laura Miller, Ben Hartman, Eric Johnsen, Kathryn Kwiatkowski, Renee Culbertson

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

President Kim Ambrose welcomed everyone and our guest speaker, Dr. McDermott, the new Principal of AGS.

### Guest Speaker

- Dr. McDermott comes to AGS from H.C. Storm School where he was for 4 years. Prior to Batavia, he taught in Indian Prairie School District #204 in various grades including 4<sup>th</sup> grade and others. Prior to that he was in Arizona for 3 years and is an Arizona University graduate. On May 8, 2016 he will be graduating with his doctorate degree. His dissertation is on Principal Leadership Practices.
- He is originally from Illinois and now lives in Oswego with his wife and two children (ages 14 and 10).
- His philosophy is that he believes in sustaining a partnership between the school and parents - supporting what the classroom teachers are doing in their rooms. At H.C. Storm there was a team approach toward supporting the children and he spent a lot time on the mission and vision for that building.
- He will meet with teams and our teachers the rest of this spring, to establish the goals for next year. First he plans to identify the challenges AGS is facing and how to overcome them. He also plans to meet with parents as part of the process.
- He will be spending more time in the school in the coming weeks - to get a feel for the school and get to know everyone. He believes in an open door policy and encourages "stop-bys" without appointment.
- In his former school, he and the HC Storm PTO President would meet on regular basis to update on what's happening - there was ongoing communication and he feels that was important and beneficial.

- He noted the declining enrollment in the elementary schools across Batavia School District (though J.B. Nelson is not affected by this but all others are). This will mean fewer classes per grade level, with higher student counts in those grades impacted.
- He plans to sit with 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams to discuss what the classroom support will look like for those grade levels (which are most likely to be impacted at this time). A certified teacher (CCT or Core Curriculum Teacher) is to be hired to support those teachers (not sure what that role looks like yet). He will work to identify needs of students in the grade levels and then create a plan of how to best address this.
- An initial communication plan for this is expected to be shared with parents by the end of July. There may be some need for flexibility due to actual implementation and how it works (by the end of September he expects to have a clearer understanding of how the plan will look so by Curriculum Night he anticipates they will have a solid plan in place and be in position to communicate it).
- He anticipates that a CCT (core curriculum teacher –a certified teacher) – will be hired to support both grades (split between First and Fourth); hopes to have the position hired before the end of this school year, to have them in place before start of next year if possible.
- Hi goal is to hire someone who will work with a wide range of students – not only the at-risk students but the average and enrichment students as well.
- Dr. Sokolinski will be leaving Third Grade to take a position as an Enrichment Coach in the district, covering Grace McWayne and Louise White schools.
- Fourth grade teachers next year will be Mr. Davis and Mr. Wyeth – Mrs. Lucas will not be returning.
- There will be a new assistant principal at AGS (Mr. Jeffrey will be going to RMS next year). Cheryl Curry at RMS currently is coming here and she will also cover Louise White School.

### New Business

- New Board Members to be voted in for 2016-2017 school year

Motion made by Kim Ambrose to approve the following new AGS PTO Board

Members being nominated–

- Perry Devaney as PTO Secretary
- Kevin Preas as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Melissa Dempsey as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Fatiana Stobaugh as President

Vote: All in favor – none opposed. Welcome new Board Members!

- We will be losing Marsha Stierwalt as AGS Teacher Representative. Kristin Green will join with Nick Davis as the Board's Teacher Representatives.

### Budget Vote

- The updated 2016-2017 AGS PTO Budget was posted and all changes noted in the April PTO Board meeting were made. Motion to accept the Budget was

made, seconded by Dawn Scheck– Vote: All in favor – none opposed. Budget approved.

PTO fundraising goal for next year:

- Kevin Preas– has staff feedback from Dr. Wright – some areas being considered for the goal are specialized learning educational resources; playground improvements or possibly equipment support.
- Dr. Wright noted that a sound system in the LRC and one in the Gym are also needed and might be considered as possible goals as well. The current equipment is not supporting the instructional purposes (there's no microphone, etc.). So the future fundraising goal may be new playground equipment or new sound equipment – those are the new biggest items that have been identified so far in the survey work. This is still to be decided.

Staff Appreciation Update:

- Event planning is progressing well, according to Sue Minnec. 77 staff members will be getting the special gift item.
- Update on Zanies: 40 coming to Zanies on May 5th

Next PTO Board meeting will be May 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the LRC with all new board members leading (former members shadowing).

Meeting adjourned 7:33 p.m.

