

7 p.m., March 9, 2016

Call to order – Welcome, introductions – all

Treasurer's report – Abbie Rankin

Treasurer's report: Current fund raising is going well. Scrip has raised about 1,500. The 8th graders are raising money for their spring events. Abbie suggested putting a permanent line item in the budget for the 8th graders as the PTA essentially acts as a bank for the 8th graders: they give us the money they raise to hold, and then request and use the funds as they need them.

Request for fund raising support – 2017 8th grade trip – Amy Hughes. A group of 7th grade parents is interested in organizing and raising money for an 8th grade trip in 2017. Many other middle schools have 8th grade trips, such as going to Washington D.C., and it would be nice for our students to have that experience. She notes that there is a potential issue with equity, and is hoping for advice about what they could do in terms of raising money for all 7th graders to go versus making the trip optional, which would mean that some families couldn't afford it. It was asked what the cost would be for a trip to D. C., and it would be \$2,000 per person for a 5 day trip through an educational tour company. A parent asked if we knew how many of the 54 eighth graders in 2017 would need assistance, and another parent stated that one way to get a baseline would be to look at the number of students on free and reduced lunch. Other schools who do big 8th grade trips generally make it optional, and it was noted that ACCESS has a strong sense of community and would prefer to include everyone. Several parents stated that they felt that \$2,000 was a lot of money, and asked about other trip options that would be less expensive and make it easier to include every student. There are other schools who go to the coast or Ashland. Parents were asked what they thought about the idea. Several parents noted that D. C. is a great trip for students, and others noted that it could be a burden to raise that amount of money, and that there might be fund raising fatigue. Abbie suggested a yearly budget line item for an 8th grade trip where the PTA would act as a "banker", because they always do something, even if it's just a trip to Oaks Park. ACCESS has had a general policy to limit selling things for fund raisers, and it was asked if that should extend to 8th graders raising money for a trip. It was generally agreed that if the 8th grade students want to raise money for a trip that would be different. It was recommended that if 8th graders do fund raising it would be helpful for it to be coordinated so that it isn't at the same time as the all school fund raisers.

Budget action items: A motion was made that the PTA act as a banker for the 8th grade fundraising, which was seconded and passed.

Scrip- Seana Lane. Seana has been doing our scrip sales and notes that the amount raised is dwindling, and that she is losing her long-term scrip partner who assists with the scrip program, and that she wonders if still worth doing scrip as a fundraiser. Seana doesn't mind doing it, but would like it to make more than \$2,000 and would need a helper. She decided to try one more plea for more people to participate and to get an assistant, and to do it for the rest of the year. If scrip sales don't pick up she won't likely do it again next year.

Principal announcements and updates – David Wood

ACCESS high school program discussions with PPS: Mr. Wood has met twice with Shea James, the director of high school programs (editor's note: PPS just announced that Shea James will be leaving PPS to take an

administrative position with the Clackamas School District). Today the superintendent recommended that Jefferson be the site for the ACCESS high school program, without weighing in on the content of the program. This would start in 2017. Jefferson has the middle college program with PCC. Mr. Wood wants to continue conversation about the content of the program independent of the location of the program. He is a big proponent of the middle college program and thinks that it does some great things, but it doesn't currently include everything that an ACCESS high school program would need. It was asked how receptive the Jefferson community would be to ACCESS coming there. Another parent mentioned that it would be important to make sure that it doesn't seem like a segregated program (ACCESS segregated from the rest of Jefferson) which might be a greater problem at Jefferson than at a different PPS high school because it is so much smaller (Jefferson is currently 550 students). All OUS (OSU, U of O, Linfield, Pacific, Willamette) colleges have committed to giving a full scholarship to students who complete the middle college program, so this is a big benefit to families who would have difficulty affording college. It was asked if ACCESS students who start at a different high school could revert to Jefferson or wherever the High School program is sited, and Mr. Wood stated that he would ask for that. It was also noted that Jefferson does not currently have AP or IB classes.

Budget and staffing for next school year: The staffing ratio for ACCESS remains the same for next year. We do get extra funding for math, but each year we have to ask for that so if you look at the initial superintendent recommendations it looks like we are 0.6 FTE down, which is because of the extra math FTE that we expect to receive but haven't yet been officially assigned. Mr. Wood is currently going through the yearly process where he shows that we need extra staff for math because we have more levels of math than other schools. He is confident that we will get that, provided that we are at our full 362 capacity. Because we need to reach full capacity to receive the FTE we need if we don't get exactly 28 kids for each class (like this year where 8th grade is slightly smaller) we may have 29 students at a different grade level to compensate. Our current teachers plan to remain teaching the same grades next year.

Open houses and welcome to potential new families: There was a great first open house during the morning last week, and the evening open house will be March 16th. The TAG office is late getting scores out this year. The deadline for application is April 15th, but it may get pushed out because of the late TAG scores.

Run for the Arts program and funding update: We raised \$13,000 last year, which funded music equipment and art supplies, all-school performances, and a number of class-level workshops in the arts. Teachers met to discuss RFTA funds and would like to do the same next year, with about 1/3 of the budget going to each area. Teachers will each get about \$600 for class workshops, which if not used will revert back to all school performance support. Mr. Wood welcomes suggestions for artists to come to the school, and it would be best to contact your child's homeroom teacher or Maggie Byrkit with those suggestions. We started the year with \$21,000 in RFTA funds and he suggests that we spend \$15,000 this year and leave a little as seed money for next year.

Water filters and heavy metal testing: Mr. Wood communicated with Andy Fridley from the environmental safety department at PPS and was told that tests of our air and soil for cadmium and arsenic did not show elevated levels. Results will be posted on the district web site in the future. Andy also communicated that ACCESS has water filters installed to capture lead that may be present in some piping in the school, which are changed each summer or more frequently if they become plugged. The water is also occasionally spot tested in schools who have filters, and the filters have been found to be effective.

Old business:

DBRAC updates: The superintendent has recommended that RCP be reopened as a neighborhood elementary school in 2017 and that ACCESS be moved to Humboldt at that time. Heather asked if there was

additional advocacy needed, and parents asked that it be clear that the ACCESS program be independent of location, and that the program itself is more important than the location, both for high school and the elementary/middle school. A parent asked if it would be possible for ACCESS to move to Humboldt next year and admit another section of middle school students, and Mr. Wood wasn't sure if that would be possible or not, because there is currently a Head start program housed at Humboldt.

Yearbook volunteers – Abbie Rankin. We have one adult volunteer, Jessica Colby (Berit Holden's mother), but we need at least one more. Abbie will send out a specific request with days and times asking for a second volunteer.

New business:

PTA nominating committee- discussion on this was postponed to the next meeting due to time.

8th grade promotion and end of year activities An email went out to 8th grade families last week about activities.

Announcements/Other:

Talent show (3/11 and 3/15)

Open houses for prospective students (3/16 and 4/7)

Access Auction (4/2)

Earthquake preparedness: The city is developing a plan. In the past their plan has not included schools, but this time it will and they would like input. Deborah has put information about that on Facebook. Also ACCESS families will be asked to contribute a small amount for earthquake supplies, which will all go with us to Humboldt (or wherever we move).

Adjourn – 8:30 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

PTA Board meeting – 6-7 p.m., April 13, followed by “Parent University” from 7 to 8:30 p.m. – topic TBA

General PTA Meeting – 7- 8:30 p.m., May 11 – election of new officers, final PTA meeting