

ACCESS Academy
PTA Meeting Notes
7:00PM PT – April 9, 2009

In Attendance

PTA Board: Kim Grimme, Sara Rice, Liz Adams, Kaarin Marx

Mark Sandilands, Alma Terefe, Beatriz Ramos, Kingsum Chow, Mona Vig, Sacha Gilbert, Debra Clemans, Jenni Villano, Kimcin Trim, Laura Mundorff, Gail Shaloum, Kristine Shmakov, Shauna Keyes, Janeanne Peterson

Call to order

-Called to order 7:00PM

Secretary's Report

No notes from March meeting

Principal's Report

- Jenny Villano in attendance. She is the Director of Educational Options (ACCESS is in her department)
- District/facilities trying to figure out permanent home for ACCESS
- ACCESS will be at Sabin for 2009/2010 school year
- 2010/11 location is still TBD
- All PPS schools received a decrease in staffing for 09/10
 - High school 1+% decrease
 - Elementary 1+% decrease
 - Alt. Ed 12% decrease (we're now at 17:1 ration student:teacher)
- District said they'll staff us as though we're at 200 students
- If schools in the district don't have appropriate enrollment numbers in the fall they'll lose teachers
- All physical moves have been stopped in the district
- How does Jenny communicate how potential sites fit in our long-term plans?
 - Could potentially move out of Grant cluster
 - Would be to a cluster with a high school w/AP
 - Would definitely want to have the commitment that the high school would offer the same level of AP classes as Grant

Transportation:

- No transportation available from PPS
- Must be in your neighborhood school to get transportation
- Estimated \$300K for ACCESS transportation
- Meeting held 2 weeks ago to discuss transportation

What can be done to start off 2009/10 on the right foot?

- Do we build a stronger community w/Sabin or focus on ACCESS-only?
- Will be some sharing of electives w/Sabin
- Increase in communication (from within the classroom, to administrators, to PTA)
 - Need this to be a group effort
 - Need teachers to post information (goal for next year is to work w/teachers to make sure they have a monthly newsletter)
 - Will be an interesting future with a constant influx of new folks – changing faces

Testing

- All state testing complete: 100% of all kids met/exceeded standards
- This past Friday received writing score and 100 met/exceeded state writing (first time this has happened at ACCESS) 4 & 7 grades

2009-2010 School Year Staffing Plans

- 8 classroom teachers (have 7 now)
- 1 PE teacher
- .5 Spanish
- .5 Art (split w/Sabin)
- .5 Drama (split w/Sabin)
- .5 Librarian (split w/Sabin)
- .5 Counselor
- .5 General Education assistant (counts only as .25 in the total FTE due to the position being a non-teaching position)

TOTAL FTE: 11.75

Additional staffing includes

- .5 Special education teacher
- 1 para-educator (Special Education assistant)

Treasurer's Report

- \$300 worth of donations last month
- Continue to draw down funds Feb: \$11.9K
- Teachers have spent half of the money available to them expenses
- Proposed Sept. budget at last PTA meeting
- In order to be in compliance need to have our books audited, so need 2 to 3 parent who are willing to look at Kaarin's work
- Please volunteer to audit – info will be posted on Bigtent
- Proposed have extra technology equipment for teachers to access – when needed
- We had access to smaller tech lab w/Sabin

- Each classroom now has 5 laptops in it – still need additional computers
- Every teacher now has a technology bundle
- Proposed getting a 1 or 2- 15-laptop cart (bundle w/Mark's funds, Jenny's funds, and PTA funds)
- Plan to vote to approve these computer carts by next PTA meeting (Mark to get this \$ amount)
- Also plan to budget with teacher training w/computer

New Business

Lego robotics

- 35 students registered
- 3-5 PM Fridays
- Needs:
 - Special table that needs to be set up permanently
- Tournament in December
 - Need coaches
 - Drop dead date for coaches: September
 - Tournament mission will be announced in September
 - 2-8 hours/week
 - Potentially look at high school robotics teams as mentors/coaches (Lincoln, Alliance, Benson)
- Coaches need to be 'adult's, but have the high schoolers as 'mentor'
- Free Lego coaching workshop announced in June
- Can meet in someone's home
- Evaluated in: 25% Research real world problems // 25% teamwork // 50% build robot

Green Team

- Forming a green team
- Looking for 1-2 teachers
- Team would come up with ways to improve environmental lifestyle
- Want metro to come out and talk to the classrooms and talk to the kids around environment
 - I.e. reduce paper usage
- If there are any parents who are interested in brainstorming ideas and being involved let Mona know.
- The kids get really involved
- They document what is currently occurring – then continue thru the next year and ways to improve

Next meeting date(s) and time(s)

- March 14, 2009 @ 8:45 am.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45PM