

April ACCESS PTA Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Principal's Report:

Staffing: Mr. Wood reviewed the attached report. A few big staffing changes include providing music instruction next year rather than visual arts. Mr. Wood would like feedback on what our music program would look like, either choir or instruments. JaneAnne looks forward to collaborating with this teacher. Mr. Wood would like to give ACCESS students more opportunities to perform.

Also, Mr. Wood is looking to grow the technology program at ACCESS to a full time position. Mr. Wood doesn't have quite enough money to fund a full time tech teacher but that is his number one "ask" of the ACCESS foundation.

Application/Admissions Information: The last information night had the most diverse audience yet. There were approximately 300 people in attendance.

The application committee includes Ms. Clark, Mr. Holm, Mr. Salmon and Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood will make the final admission decisions. After all decisions are mailed, Mr. Wood will provide a breakdown of the applications received, e.g. demographics, etc. Carl Logan has asked for a report on the process for applicants and how the admission decisions were made.

A new family welcome night is scheduled for May 27th from 6:30 - 8:00. Mr. Wood would like to pair every new student with an existing ACCESS family and will send out an invitation.

Questions: A parent asked if there was a way to utilize the kiln even if we won't have an art teacher. Answer: Yes. Also, we hope to have more classroom residencies next year (w/RFTA funding) since we won't have a visual art teacher.

State Testing: Testing is ongoing. ACCESS students seem to be a little more frustrated this year than in the past but compared to other schools, we are doing very well with completing the new exams. There is no instant feedback on scores - those will come back over the summer (late summer or early fall). Staff will review them in the fall.

District-wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee, "D-BRAC" Update - Pamela Kislak:

Pamela is an ACCESS parent who is volunteering on the PPS D-BRAC committee. She is updating ACCESS as a school parent and is not speaking on behalf of the D-BRAC committee.

D-BRAC consists of 26 volunteers working to develop criteria for the boundary review process. Some volunteers are parents of PPS students, some are community leaders, others are educators. The broad idea for the committee is to get a general sense of the impact of the boundary changes on the community. Right now D-BRAC is working on learning the history (e.g. fair housing coalition) of Portland and PPS and have been learning about best practices in other cities. Pamela has joined a small committee to determine how to analyze data (e.g. school population, SPED pop, FRL, closed/open buildings, etc.) This will continue for 3 weeks or so. By the end of May, D-BRAC hopes to provide the superintendent with a framework to start the boundary change process. In the fall, there will be a robust public input process. The final recommendation will go to the school board in December.

The first boundary change survey netted over 6,000 respondents, which was a huge number for PPS. The district worked hard to reach all families and it appears to have helped. Results from the first survey will be available by the end of May and will be shared with the individual schools. The second survey is equally important so everyone should fill it out.

Other comments: D-BRAC hasn't talked about Rose City Park particularly, but Pamela gets the sense that RCP will reopen as a neighborhood school at some point. All PPS buildings and programs are "on the table" for consideration even if they are not retrofitted for earthquakes or even if they are small. The goal is to start with a broad net and whittle down to the best options. D-BRAC's job is to make broad level recommendations and guidance. If ACCESS parents, teachers or staff have questions, comments, concerns or information that should be shared with D-BRAC, Pamela is happy to assist.

Treasure's Report

Attached report provided and reviewed. The chess club had a financial request and it was paid for with the building STEM funds. The middle school dances have made a small profit. Teacher and library expenses will probably be fully expended by the end of the year. We expect more expenditures to roll in as the year concludes. We may get a request from the science teachers. The May PTA meeting will be the last opportunity to request funds from the PTA.

Requests: A request was made to assist with the 8th grade trip to Camp Adam. They raised \$1400 but need an additional \$400 to help cover the buses and other expenses. They would like to have flexibility on how the money is spent. Motion to approve \$400 for 8th grade trip was made, seconded and approved.

Mr. Wood and Abbie are trying to find a safer way to store cash in the office.

Old Business

Motion to approve the February meeting minutes passed. Motion to approve the March meeting minutes passed.

Teacher and staff appreciation week is coming up. We are going to do the regular Tuesday appreciation lunch in May, other events will be announced.

The PTA is trying to put together a social calendar for next year and confirmed the following events:

- last day of school celebration for all current ACCESS families
- new family welcome on May 27th, 6:30 - 8:00
- summer picnic on August 2nd
- Atomic Cabaret in winter 2016

Other ideas for the social calendar are welcome. Please send them to Heather Kent or Abbie Rankin.

New Business

The PTA is considering doing a focused fundraising drive rather than a general GIVE campaign next year. For example, we could hold a fundraiser for new technology equipment.

We need to recruit new members for PTA Leadership Nominations. Please help!

We voted on honoring a volunteer of the year and will present the award at the May PTA meeting.

The parent forums have been well attended thus far. The PTA is considering hosting information nights on a wide range of topics next year. Andrew Johnson has wondered if ACCESS should host nights that would be open to all PPS TAG families.

Kristi Byfield will look into the feasibility of using Schoolhouse Supplies at ACCESS.

Judy Berck needs help with the school picnic on August 2nd. Louise McHarris offered to help. Additional support will be needed!

There will not be a PTA meeting in June. Meeting adjourned at 8:38.