

ACCESS PTA Meeting September 9,2015

7 p.m. Call to order- Welcome, introductions:

Staff introduction: Amy MacKinnon (advanced math teacher)

Introductions: PTA officers introduced, Kelly Cutler- site council representative, Kristi Byfield- auction chair. Kristi explained that the Foundation's biggest fundraiser of the year is the auction, and she needs volunteers. She has been asked to be the Foundation president next year and will need someone else to be auction chair next year, so it would also be helpful for someone to learn the ropes this year.

Purpose of PTA, Goals for this year:

Heather explained the role of the PTA in supporting the teachers and school in general, including classroom enrichment, and also community-building events.

The Give Campaign is the main PTA fundraiser. Several years ago parents decided that they didn't want to do fundraisers via wrapping-paper type fundraisers, so for the Give campaign we ask that each family who is able contribute money to the PTA, ideally \$100 per student. There are a few other fundraisers such as the apple sale which is part of the Harvest Festival and is a community-building event in the fall, and Scrip, which actually doesn't cost families anything as it involves buying gift cards for local stores who then donate a percent of the cards' value to ACCESS.

Run for the Arts is a fundraiser that really supports arts in the school, and we need new volunteers to run it this year as the parents who did it for many years graduated last year.

The ACCESS Foundation supports the school by directly increasing FTE (which the PTA is not allowed to do). Amy MacKinnon (advanced math teacher and organizer of ACCESS programs) spoke about the math program here at ACCESS and how the foundation's fundraisers help support that. Ms. MacKinnon teaches math 60% of her time and 40% of her time is doing math enrichment, which is supported by the Foundation. Last year she developed an improved, organized placement process, and she spent 45 minutes weekly in each elementary school class doing math enrichment, which also helped the elementary teachers by exposing them to new ideas and lesson ideas. They did a project on multicultural multiplication, and other special topics. She took middle schools to the PCC math fest and other competitions. She did some alternative curriculum exploring (i.e., examining whether Bridges is the best curriculum for our school). This year she is further streamlining the placement process, including creating online files. She is collecting school-wide data on the placement results. The AMC8 (fill in the blank test for grades 5-8) is in November and the AMC 10 is in February. The PCC Math Fest is in April (this is actually designed for high school, but they have let ACCESS kids go in the past). There is also the Math League/Math Counts competition which goes down to 4th grade, and which might be an additional option for this year. She will do elementary math enrichment again this year, although she may not have as much time to do 45 minutes a week for 75% of the year as she did last year. She also helps the middle school kids create the Mathazine every year.

A parent asked Ms. MacKinnon about using the Common Core in math and Ms. MacK explained that the curriculum is based on the Common Core standards, but not necessarily for the Smarter Balanced test.

Another parent asked if Ms. MacK. has a website that explains this, and she said that she does have a website, but not everything is on it yet. Heather Kent suggested that parent volunteers create a summary this fall of all the math competition options. Lydia Dennehy noted that she is in charge of organizing room parents, and she could use a parent volunteer to help with teachers and teacher websites.

Treasurer's report- Abbie Rankin. Abbie first covered the standing rules, and provided a handout. A motion was made and the standing rules were approved with minor changes:

A motion was made to authorize the PTA executive committee to spend up to 10% or \$100 more than the budgeted amount for a given item without seeking approval of the membership between meetings. The motion was approved.

Abbie next reviewed the year-end budget for last year. David Fikstad and Jennifer Ellis did the year-end audit for last year. David reviewed the audit which was based on the Oregon PTA checklist, and noted that there was nothing out of order on last year's budget. The audit forms were circulated and a motion was made to approve the audit, which passed. It was noted that the 8th graders raised \$3,000 for their year-end trip, primarily through Camp Atom fundraisers. A parent asked about the 4th and 5th grade plans for the Oregon Trail Trip, as they didn't get to go last year, and this money was budgeted again this year for the 5th graders.

Abbie then discussed the proposed budget for this year. The aim for the Give Campaign is \$9,000 this year, for Scrip \$3,000, and other smaller fundraisers are noted as well.

Seana Lane discussed the apple fundraiser, which she is organizing. 10/18 will be the delivery, with pick up in the days following (including at the Harvest Fest) Kiyokawa Orchards is the partner for the fundraiser, and families can order cheap really good local apples and/or pears, and ACCSS raises money.

A parent asked about t-shirts, and a form will be coming out soon (Ben Burtle, parent, is working on that) to order t-shirts and sweatshirts.

The state PTA asked that we consider contributing to their lobby fund, which many PTAs do, but we have not. The state PTA has historically supported important legislation (like child-labor laws, etc.) A motion was made to put \$50 each in the PTA scholarship and PTA lobbying fund, and it was approved to put \$50 in the scholarship fund (but not the lobbying fund).

Abbie also reviewed what PTA money is spent on, including teacher support, building needs, OBOB book set, social activities, science lab needs, and many other items. Each full time teacher and staff member gets \$500 to spend on classroom supplies or support (part time staff receive a prorated amount). Speaker funds are new this year. The Student Equity Fund was new last year, and this year we are trying to find ways to make it more accessible. The Student Aid Equity Fund is to help ensure that lower income students can afford enrichment activities at ACCESS. Also to help with equity teachers are asked to budget a little over for field trips (ask individual families for more than the per-student cost) and allow families who can't afford the field trip to opt-out of contributing, so that it will even out and all students can afford to go. If there is still a gap the teacher can then go to the PTA for additional funds if needed.

Discussion ensued about the fact that the expenses on the budget are \$2,000 greater than the budgeted

income. This is due to several reasons: Abbie was conservative in her estimation of income, there was money that we expected to spend last year and didn't (Oregon Trail Trip, OBOB books), and the reserve is large at \$19,000.

Discussion of the budget ended and a motion was made and passed to approve it.

Principal Announcements and updates- David Wood

There are 355 students as of today. 2 students are moving to new grades, and 2 students are moving out of the area, so he will be admitting 4 new students, with at least one each in 6th, 5th, 4th. It is the most diverse population ever, including double the free and reduced lunch qualifying students compared to last year. We are at capacity and the building is very full. The ACCESS staff meets monthly with BC staff to make sure everything is going smoothly.

Back to School night is on the 30th. This is a curriculum overview for the parents. It is not designed for the kids, but if families need to bring kids to come then they should do that.

Trish Hendy, the secretary, is on medical leave until 10/15. Pam Dahlberg pdahlberg@pps.net, is the temporary secretary. Please email teachers if you need an appointment to meet with them, and please give at least 24 hours notice.

David asked all at the meeting to get out their cell phones, so that we could sign up for school text messages. Text "yes" to Mobile First at 68593 to sign up.

New Directory information: the school directory will be online through myschoolanywhere.com. Families have a one-week period to opt-out and will get information on how to do that. Information will be uploaded to Synergy, so please correct your family's information on Synergy if needed. The directory will only be available to ACCESS families, so it will NOT be widely available. During the opt-out period, until the 24th, all information will be dark to other families, and will become available after the 24th. After the 24th you can still go into the system and hide or change any information about your family that you want. It can be searched by class and grade, and can be used for communication within a class. Mr. Wood will send out an email with a link as well as a text message to families to log on and make changes.

New for the elementary school this year:

music once weekly with Mr. Fitch

PE 1-2 times week with Mr. Kreuz

Chinese 1-2 times weekly with M. Xie

New for the Middle School:

Mandarin and Spanish 1 semester each in 6th, yearlong in 7 and 8 (students choose which they take).

Science enrichment 6 and 8

music 7th only

technology 7th 1st semester and 8th second semester

Mr. Wood would like more language instruction available for the lower grades, and more technology for the upper grades.

Some things are delayed this year because Trish Hendry has been missing, and she does so much! This includes middle school planners and other items.

New Business:

Bob Kelly was nominated for PTA vice president, and was approved by vote.

Approval of old minutes was reserved for next meeting as we were running behind.

Check signers for this year were changed to Abbie Rankin, treasurer, Heather Kent, president, and Bob Kelly V.P. A motion was made to approve these three, which was seconded and approved by vote.

Announcements/Other:

Community Service- Judy Berck. About 20 kids have signed up so far for the community service program. There is a link to the sign up on the ACCESS Facebook page.

Volunteer Update: Lydia Dennehy is going to send out a Google form that we can fill out to identify skills and strengths to match up volunteers with needs.

Heather encouraged parents to sign up to the ACCESS Facebook page, as there is a lot of good information there even for people who dislike Facebook. Also the Mobile First system will help to keep families informed and connected.

Every other board meeting will be a short board/business meeting (although anyone can come) followed by "Parent University" which will involve a speaker and discussion about various topics.

On October 10th OTAG is having their annual conference in Portland, and the focus is the social and emotional development of gifted children, with the national head of SENG being the keynote speaker.

TAGAC: There were 3 parents at the meeting who are also on the district TAGAC committee, and one topic at TAGAC this year will be the best grade/time to do TAG testing.

David Wood brought up a school family who had the father and sole breadwinner die unexpectedly just before the start of the school year, creating a crisis for the family. Donations can be left for the family in the Scrip box in the office payable to the ACCESS PTA and clearly marked for that purpose, or else Scrip cards can be purchased for the family and marked as for them.

Meeting adjourned- 8:30pm.

