

ACCESS PTA General Meeting

9-10-14

Call to order and introductions

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Introductions of ACCESS PTA officers, foundation leadership, and staff were made.

Attendees introduced themselves.

A brief explanation of the PTA was given and a call for volunteers was made. Heather Kent asked all to review their welcome packets for additional information on how to get involved. We need help in several capacities; a few additional roles are listed below.

There was a brief overview of the differences between the PTA and the foundation, i.e. the PTA raises funds and provides support for the children, teachers, parents, and school but cannot provide money for FTEs, whereas the foundation raises money for FTEs.

Principal announcements and updates

Mr. Wood gave an overview of his written principal's report, see attached, and gave these additional comments:

- Schedules are fairly settled now that math assessments are done and the new staff has had time to adjust
- Staff and students will be working on using the four "I's" (looking, leaning in, listening, and using low voices) to improve learning and communication at the school
- We have a more diverse student body than ever before so that might mean that we need additional support to make sure field trips and other activities can happen
- Mr. Wood is looking for people in the community who are willing to host or provide opportunities for community service. If you own a business or know of opportunities for our students, please contact Mr. Wood.
- A goal of Mr. Wood's is to create a site council this year (see attachment for more details)
 - If you are interested in site council, please talk with Heather Kent or David Wood. The meetings will probably be right after school.

Financial report

Treasurers Report – Kristen Sheeran and Traci Kirkpatrick

- Kristen Sheeran and Traci Kirkpatrick audited ACCESS' PTA finances this summer. The books balanced except for roughly \$300 in additional funds (positive balance). This is likely due to the additional fundraisers last year. The opening budget is roughly \$10,000.
- A yearend financial statement review (FY 13-14) was given
- Proposed FY 14-15 PTA Budget (attached) - Heather Kent
 - Heather Kent reviewed the budget proposal and then called for questions or a motion to approve the budget. There were questions about the field trip line as well as Mr. Garcia's request and the increased library budget. Also, it was questioned whether the PTA makes a monetary donation to the PTA Clothing and the answer was "no", we donate the lost and found that is not claimed in a reasonable timeframe.
 - A clarifying question was raised about how much the scrip program raises. An explanation of the program was given. The proposed budget is based on how much was raised with last year's scrip program.
 - Some attendees asked if future requests for funds could be entertained and Heather Kent responded "yes". People also questioned whether the PTA could assist with building requests, e.g. filters for the water fountains, the answer is "yes".

- A motion to approve the proposed budget was made, seconded, and passed. (Prior to the vote there was a question of who is allowed to vote and there was a clarification that only PTA members are eligible to vote.)
- An offer to write grants was given. Judy Berck collected the name and number.

Old business

- A motion to approve minutes from the July board meeting passed.
- A motion to approve the PTA president and treasurer as signers on PTA checks was made, seconded and approved. Two follow-up questions were asked – whether the checks require two signatures (yes) and whether Mr. Wood would be a signer (no).
- Approval of the yearend audit was not done since it was not posted in time.

New business / questions

- Fundraising Overview - Christine Nagle
 - Scrip - a more detailed description of the scrip program was given and handouts were distributed. Please participate!
 - Loyalty rewards signups (at Fred Meyer, Target, Safeway, Amazon Smiles, etc.) – please take a few minutes to connect your loyalty cards with the ACCESS PTA (or sign up for these programs). Fred Meyer recently gave a \$400 check to the school so it does pay off!
 - There is a dine out fundraiser at Laurelwood on October 14th.
- After school enrichment/opportunities - Heather Kent and Mr. Wood
 - Mr. Wood – the biggest hurdle to after school activities is space. Keep an eye out for an update on fall offerings.
 - Saturday Academy will probably be at ACCESS but not until the second quarter
 - Mr. Diltz is committed to keeping the library open for a little while after school. More information on that will be available soon.
 - No new updates on whether MUSE band will be at ACCESS. Mr. Wood hopes to have an after school music program and is working on bringing one in.
 - The Greenwall family has offered to start a 4th – 8th grade creative writing program.
 - There is a digital mapping class that will be offered every other week on Mondays for kids in 4th – 8th grade. More information will be coming out soon.
- Run for the Arts Funds
 - If you have input or suggestions on how to best use the Run for the Arts funds, please contact Heather Kent to discuss. Mr. Wood can provide information on what was done last year.
- Room Parents and Volunteer Opportunities - Judy Berck
 - The role of room parents was explained and a request for parent volunteers for the remaining open classrooms (as well as for Mr. Brachman's art room) was made.
 - We are also looking for someone to be a volunteer coordinator for the school. (One has been found – thanks Lydia Dennehy.)
 - Mr. Garcia has many grants that he would like to have written. Please contact Judy or Heather Kent if you are able to help.
 - If anyone would like to put together events for the school to promote community building, e.g. bowling events, casual meet-ups, etc., please let Judy Berck or Heather Kent know.
 - October 8th bike to school event – we need a coordinator.
 - There is interest in a once a week bike train in conjunction with Beverly Cleary but we need a coordinator.

- Community Service Program – Judy Berck
 - The community service program is a long standing program at ACCESS where students can chart their service to others (animals included). Mr. Wood has started an eighth grade program so this community service group would be only for 1-7 graders. We need a coordinator who would help promote community service ideas, send out the chart for members to complete, and help distribute awards in the spring.
- Run for the Arts – Val Aitchison
 - We are looking for group of 3 or 4 volunteers to coordinate Run for the Arts this year. Last year we raised \$15,000 for the school. It should take place this spring, around April. We are considering not using Young Audiences this year since they take a cut of the profits. If anyone has experience running this type of program, please contact Val with your ideas even if you can't take on the whole event.
- Harvest Fest – Heather Kent
 - Tentatively set for October 19, 2014. Last year we had a band, many activities for kids and families, a costume exchange, snacks, an ACCESS t-shirt/sweatshirt sale, etc. We have a coordinator but will need more hands. Please contact Heather Kent to volunteer.
- Garden – Heather Kent
 - There are garden beds that are being created by the ACCESS and BCS 3rd grade classes. If your class would like to participate, please let Heather Kent know. There will be a work day in the future. More info to come.
- Questions
 - School Supplies – a parent was wondering if we could research a better way to coordinate this for the school. A volunteer offered to help but is open to ideas. Please contact Heather Kent if you would like to be involved.

— Announcements / Other

- Conferences are at a different time this year – please note that they will be in October
 - Signups for conference times are done through the homeroom teachers and will be coordinated by them. For grades 1-5, teachers will have signup sheets at back to school night.
- Back to School Night – Tuesday, September 30th
 - There will be an opening program for the whole school and then families will break off to see classrooms. Middle school families will follow a schedule similar to the student schedule.
 - The evening is geared towards parents and there will not be childcare, however, if you do not have coverage you are welcome to bring your student(s).
- Bike/Walk to School – October 8th
- PTA Board Meeting – October 8th, ACCESS Rose City Park Library, 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.
- Halloween costume parade - October 28th
- General PTA Meeting – November 12th in the ACCESS Rose City Park Auditorium (potluck 6:15 p.m., meeting at 7:00 p.m.)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ACCESS PTA Meeting – September 10, 2014

Rose City Park Cafeteria

Principal's Report

1. Enrollment and Growth

- 305 students as of 9/9/14: 162 in 1st-5th; 143 in 6th-8th (up from 243 in 2013-14)
- Added a third 4th/5th classroom
- Added 26 new 6th graders, 11 new 7th graders
- ACCESS students come from 52 PPS school neighborhoods – our most diverse student body ever

2. New ACCESS Staff

- Ana Simantel (1/2 Teacher), Maggie Byrkit (4/5 Teacher), Eric Lanners (MS Science/Math/Leadership), Steven Alexander (MS Advanced Math), Devin Harkness (Counselor), David Holm (Dean of Students), Cameron Kreuz (PE & Math 6), Joshua O'Connor and Michael Rocha (Paraeducators), Lane Tate (Speech Language Pathologist), Melissa McClure (School Psychologist), Kathy Phourides (Education Assistant)

3. Focus for School Improvement/Professional Development in 2014-15

- **Strengthening Mathematical Practices** – increasing mathematical perseverance, multiple approaches to problem-solving, using models
- **Writing across the content areas** – especially evidence-based, expository writing from a wide variety of challenging, non-fiction texts
- **Supporting Academic Conversations** – improving and deepening students' structured and unstructured conversations about academic subjects; speaking and listening to enhance learning; using evidence to support assertions

4. New Programs/Supports for 2014-15

- **Math Specialist** (Ms. MacKinnon, .4 FTE) – partially Foundation-funded
 - Assessment and acceleration support
 - Whole-school math challenge work, supplementation
 - Small group acceleration and remediation, as needed
 - Professional development for teachers in Common Core-aligned Math Practices
- **Full-time Library/Technology teacher** (Mr. Diltz) – partially Foundation-funded
 - Separate weekly Library/Technology times for Elementary
 - Dedicated Library collaboration time with Middle School teachers
 - Technology classes for 6th and 7th graders
- **Leadership/Community Service class for all 8th graders**
 - Student Council/"Voice of Students"/School-wide Leadership
 - Supporting younger students/modeling ACCESS Life Skills
 - In-school and out-of-school Community Service
- **Mandarin Chinese and Spanish (1 semester each) for all 6th graders**
- **Weekly 3rd grade Garden Program (collaboration with Beverly Cleary 3rd graders)**
- **Weekly specials for Elementary students:** Library (Mr. Diltz), Technology (Mr. Diltz), Chinese, 2 quarters (Ms. Xie), Spanish, grades 3-5 (Mr. Salmon), Wellness (Mr. Kreuz), Art (Mr. Brachman), Choir (Ms. Peterson, parent-volunteer)

5. Support Needed from PTA Community in 2014-15

- Strengthen Library collection
- Strengthen Science equipment and curriculum beyond District adoption
- Teachers' field trip and curriculum support for larger, more diverse student population
- Building needs: move lockers
- Community Service opportunities for Middle School leaders

6. Building Community

- Weekly Principal's Newsletter
- Monthly Principal's Coffees
- School-wide events for more diverse, more diffuse community
- Future PTA Meetings: Learning/sharing about highly gifted learners

6. Site Council

- Focus on School Improvement, program-level input to Principal and District leaders
- Meets monthly after school, dates TBD.
- Equally balanced between staff and parents/community members
- Likely key issues for 2014-15:
 - (1) **District-wide Boundary Review** – effects on ACCESS's program, growth plan, location/facilities
 - (2) **High School for ACCESS graduates** – program, location, enrollment guarantees