

ACCESS PTA

General Membership Meeting

September 23, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by PTA President David Fikstad at 7:09.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY DAVID FIKSTAD

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made to submit the minutes from the May 18, 2010 meeting to the record. Seconded. Motion not passed. Submission of minutes tabled until later in the meeting to allow members to review minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET

- Financial Reports provided: Report for past fiscal year handed out (see attached). We are in great shape. Some highlights: There is a profit of \$194.94. A large percentage of funds were spent on direct teacher reimbursements, classroom expenses, \$2000 for the technology cart. The yearbooks were donated. We donated \$500 to the Sabin Garden. A few teachers were sent to the Twice Exceptional Conference in Washington DC with PTA support. The PTA donated \$500 to the library. \$700 was given to music/art for the auditorium repainting and a guest choreographer.
- Proposed Budget: Proposed budget handed out (see attached). GIVE forecasted at 65% participation based on \$100 per child. PTA membership based on 120 members.

Community Service budget: Last year it cost \$200 each month to feed 90 men at the Clark Shelter. Mark Sandilands ran the Change Drive last year and it funded all of the meals at the Clark Shelter. This year, Pat Thompson has not yet been asked to run a drive. Pat Thompson stated that she welcomes a discussion on what she can do to help fundraise for this project.

- Q. For Community Garden and Library, how much does Sabin contribute?
A. Last year, Sabin raised \$11,000 for the library. Sabin is paying \$9,000 for a Garden educator. Sabin's PTA budget is \$70,000. Sabin raises a tremendous amount of money through their auction.

Anything we buy for the building will stay with the building if Access moves. The teachers are not requesting much from PTA. We believe that there are things that the teachers may want, but they are not asking. The teachers were given \$700 each for supplies. Teachers may be reticent to ask for things because they do not feel like we have the funds to give them.

- Audit:

- Audit report: Camela Hicks helped with the audit. First, the Audit Committee reviewed last year's audit. The committee found a number of checks listed as outstanding were not outstanding because the audit was conducted before the end of the year. The committee then verified that there were 3 checks outstanding totaling about \$5,000.
- Audit report for this year: Amaya has done an outstanding job in terms of organization and accuracy. Everything balanced. The Audit Report is submitted to the Official Record.

Q. Did you consult with the Board when creating the budget?

A. Kim Grimme explained that the Executive Committee has reviewed and considered the budget, and at this meeting the membership has a chance to review and approve.

Camela Hicks would like to recommend a fundraiser that she will run and would like to also let the community know where the money raised will go. – The potential fundraiser was not addressed at this point in the meeting.

Motion to approve budget for 2010-2011. Seconded. All in favor.

- Balance Sheet: the Give campaign has already raised over \$5000. There are currently 68 PTA members. Last year there were 114 members.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Principal Thompson

- Pat is very excited to be here, and see the energy and synergy of the room. The teachers send a message of gratitude to the PTA. Providing \$700 to each teacher is fantastic. Pat will encourage the teachers to use or spend their \$700.
- Thank you for campus clean-up before school started. Great blend of Sabin/Access community as well as neighbors.
- Since the beginning of the year Pat has been focusing on a Framework for Differentiated Instruction (handout). The monthly late openings provide a great opportunity for teachers to focus on professional development. Focus has been predominantly on documenting differentiated instruction. Differentiation is about going deep rather than simply broad.
- As District Program Administrator for TAG, Pat wants to report that Access is one of 17 schools asked by the district to submit lesson plans around differentiation. This is not about compliance, this is about best practice.
- State of mathematics at Access. There was no algebra class on the schedule when Pat arrived. The thinking was that math instruction could be flip flopped (like in science). Pat believes that with math the process is much more complicated. Pat believes that Access needed to do a better job of pre-

assessment at the end of the last school year. So, pre-assessments were given at the beginning of this year. This then created some frustration. Some students who thought that they took high school algebra last year, in fact, did not and they had to be moved from geometry to algebra. In the spring next year, Access will pre-assess both current students and incoming students.

Q. To what degree are Access teachers required to use curricula that are used in other PPS schools?

A. We are an alternative school, so it seems we should be able to have more flexibility. Pat wants to look into why this is not happening more. For example, some students would benefit from a two-year algebra model (taking algebra 1-2 over two years) rather than only a one-year model. She has not lost the battle, but has not yet won the battle. We need to determine whether based on the size of Access, this will work. This is just an idea, an example of how Access as an alternative school can work within the District framework.

Pat reported that the district is working on a framework for single subject acceleration. This will provide an opportunity to meet as a team and make a determination where a student should be. Content acceleration and "testing out" are connected. A better word than "testing out" is "credit by proficiency."

Pat wants to ensure that our children are ready for the high school experience.

Q. Is Access a program or school?

A. Access is a program.

There are other forums for these discussions. Pat is going to set up a meeting for a Site Council. She will also be having "Principal's Coffees" the last Wednesday of every month starting at 8:30.

- Behavior Side: Pat is working on a foundational framework with teachers to create 3 Behavioral Rules and Expectations. She has dealt with 15 bus referrals in the past 3 days. She has spent a lot of time on the playground at recess observing and counseling students.
- Pat has a very strong commitment to communicating with parents as soon as possible when any issue arises. She is spending a lot of appropriate time talking with parents and meeting with students on behavior issues. Pat is very concerned about playground behavior. She is on the playground every day. There is a need to focus on sharing, fairness, and play.
- Pat prefers appointments to "drop-ins." She is very open to setting up a meeting, and a request for a telephone call. She wants to keep communication very open. She is aware that she and Mark are "very different," and is thankful for our patience and respect.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- David will compile committee reports and send out via email.
- **Committees:** Communications: Mona Vij, Lisa Goetzinger; Community Service: Judy Berck; Fundraising Pamela Kislik; Social Activities: David and Gail; Teacher Appreciation: open; Transportation: Katie Schneider; Volunteer: Elona and Gail Shalom.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF STANDING RULES FOR 2010-2011

- Motion to table standing rules until next meeting. Seconded. All approved. David will post new revised proposed standing rules on Big Tent.

DISCUSSION OF PTA GOALS/FOCUS THIS YEAR (and beyond)

Brainstorming ideas:

- Sabin is trying to get recess coaches. They facilitate play and help students learn socialization skills. This is something that Access PTA could help fund/support. Sabin gets funding from a grant as a Title I school. We think we can make an argument that we can use this support source.
- Can the PTA create a committee/task-force to work on the issue of recess time? Some ideas include perhaps starting a basketball tournament or a recess running group. Another idea is to implement peer mentors using older students to mediate recess disputes.
- Student Council. Ms. Montano is starting a student council and having the 8th Graders take on more leadership projects.
- Spirit Week. Can Access have a Spirit Week?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choir: Access is allowed to use the auditorium every Tuesday morning for choir.

Drama: There is a parent group working on providing a drama program for at least 4th/5th grades.

Book Fair: Barnes & Noble book fair is October 16, 2010. Next year, we will look into holding the book fair at Powell's.

Childcare: Sabin and Access PTA meetings are going to be on the same evening, and we are going to share childcare.

Raising our Daughters: Book club for parents on parenting issues. One night event. Beverly Cleary will host, but the fees are \$350, and would like some help with the fees.

Battle of the Books: Maybe we could do this with Winterhaven.

Sun Program: Regarding Ken Rumbaugh AmeriCorps intern/volunteer. Sabin has donated \$3000 towards his stipend. His main duties involve community outreach. Does Access PTA want to donate? There is a general belief that Access students do not use the Sun program. We do not know what percentage of Access students use Sun. There was general agreement to donate that percentage of the \$3000. It was unclear whether this means that if 10% of the students using Sun are Access students, we will donate \$300; or if 10% of the student population of Access is using Sun we donate \$300 to Sun.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Access PTA received 3 awards for meeting membership growth goals and an award for paying the bill on time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.