

PTA Meeting 10/8/13

Principal's Update

See attached notes from Dr. Wood, with additions below.

Mr. Wood has been asked for clarification about Dave Holm's role: he is ½ time for ACCESS/ ½ time Beverly Cleary Dean of Students- essentially an assistant principal who works only with students. He recognizes students for both good and bad behavior for acknowledgment or support/intervention.

A Gay/Straight Alliance group will be forming and will likely meet every 2 weeks; this group was requested by middle school students.

A lot of ACCESS-related board issues are happening currently. 3 ACCESS parents attended the board meeting 2 days ago related to the boundary changes.

Our students will participate in the new Smarter Balances Assessments in the spring. There is a possibility that PPS may refuse to set target goals on the test because it is new, but this would not affect our students' participation. Mr Wood isn't positive if our kids will be tested just at their grade level: there is a possibility that they might be tested at their assigned level, especially in math. This could be an advantage.

Students will celebrate Halloween if they wish on the 28th (the last day of school before time off for fall conferences). There will be Harvest Games and a Haunted Classroom (with Beverly Cleary), and students can dress up for the day if they would like.

No treasurer's report tonight

Old Business:

Minutes from September meeting were approved

Tracy Kirkpatrick has requested a co-treasurer, and Abby Rankin was nominated and approved for that role.

3 officers were added as co-signers on the bank account: Abbie Rankin, Heather Grossmann, and Judy Burke. This was voted on and approved.

New business:

*** Site council nominations and approval of parent representatives.** Please also see attached notes. 18 parents had expressed interest in being on the Site Council. Heather Kent, PTA president, recommended 3 of these parents for the positions on Site Council: Kristin Sheeran, Jonathan Dubay, and Kelly Cutler. These three parents were chosen after careful consideration of the desired criteria, with input from David Wood. A question was raised about why we were trying to move so quickly in choosing parent representatives for ACCESS and if it is necessary to do so. Mr. Wood and a parent present at the Monday board meeting clarified that there actually is a need to have a Site Council as soon as possible, because the PPS board is planning to make decisions on boundary changes that affect ACCESS by February, so it is important to have the Site Council functioning to address this.

A couple of parents asked questions about the backgrounds of parents recommended for the Site Council, which were answered by a number of other parents:

Jonathan Dubay is an experienced parent who has both a student in ACCESS middle school and a high school student at Grant who is an ACCESS graduate. He served on the PTA as treasurer. He is a professional violinist with the Oregon Symphony.

Kristin Sheeran is the parent of a 5th grade student who has been at ACCESS for 4 years. She is a former PTA president who served during the last round of boundary changes when ACCESS was at Sabin and the time that Rose City Park was chosen as a site. She is a former economics professor and currently works at Ecotrust.

Kelly Cutler is a new ACCESS parent who is a teacher currently on a one year leave of absence working on her PhD. She has been on Site Councils as a teacher in the past, and also has a student who qualifies for SPED and brings that experience with her.

Please see attached notes provided by Heather Kent, as well as a list of issues raised by parents who commented on the Site Council survey.

* **SCRIPT.** Seana brought up the difficulty of doing SCRIPT as a commuter school (no cute kids selling it at a table, concerns about sending it home in backpacks). She suggested pre-buying SCRIPT and selling it at the Harvest Fair. Parents who have experience with SCRIP felt that it would be a good idea to sell pre-purchased SCRIP. A proposal was made to see if a parent would donate a safe in which to keep the cards. A motion was made to authorize the pre-purchase of \$2,500 worth of SCRIP before the harvest festival, which was passed. A parent also asked about using re-loadable cards, which parents purchase from ACCESS initially and then can re-load them themselves, which still benefits the school, and Seana and Christine will look into that.

* **Harvest Festival-** planned for November 2nd from 1-4pm. Our room parents will help.

* **Teacher Appreciation-** in the past we have had monthly teacher appreciation lunches. Because ACCESS teachers eat with Beverly Cleary teachers, we would like to work with them. Abbie Rankin and David Fikstad have coordinated it in the past and it is really appreciated by the teachers. We will likely start with a meal at the teacher conferences, and then start monthly lunches the following month. The meal for conferences will be school-wide and the monthly lunches will be sponsored by individual classrooms.

* **Book Fair-** David Fikstad and Sara Kennedy-Adams have started investigating venues for the book fair, and we will likely hold it at Barnes and Noble again as it has more space for performances and raises more money. We might also have a non-performance book event at a local bookstore where a percentage of purchases on a given day will be donated to ACCESS (likely 12/5). The librarian from B.C. wants to do a Scholastic book fair during the conferences. Parents who have done this in the past noted that it is a lot of work. Pluses are that teachers can make wish lists, it is a reasonable fundraiser for the school, and there are some upper-level books. David will look into this as a possible option. It was brought up that originally when we instituted the GIVE campaign it was an intentional effort to reduce fundraisers. Most of the fundraisers we have are community-building, but this may be something to consider. We may have this as an item to discuss at the November meeting.

Need for foldable Tables- organizers of the Walk/Bike to school day event noted a need to foldable tables for such events. It was suggested that we first post a request for donation of tables. A motion was made to set aside up to \$125 for the purchase of 2 tables for PTA and school use, which was passed.

Talent Show- Sara Kennedy-Adams, JaneAnne Peterson, and Judy Berck are organizing a parent and staff talent show which will be at the Alberta Abbey on Thursday January 29th from 7-9pm. (Alberta Abbey is owned by ACCESS parents who will rent it to us as a discount). The Talent Show is a PTA general fundraiser, adults-only. Tickets will likely be \$10-\$15, and wine and beer will be served. There will be a performance as well as display of visual arts. The M.C. will be Mr. Harkness (our new counselor). A parent brought suggested having babysitting as a related activity. Heather Kent will ask the Playground Gym if we could have a babysitting event there.

Student Talent Show- will be held Friday March 13th and Tuesday March 17th this year. Auditions will be held earlier in the year. Mr. Wood notes the amazing amount of talent among our students, and how great the show has been in the past.

Box Tops for Education/ Community Leadership Program- Judy Berck and Becci Tyler are running the Boxtops for Education program, and Judy and Gigi Cooper are running the community service program. There is also an 8th grade service class this year taught by Mr. Lanners. Judy is working with Mr Lanners to have a few 8th graders count the box tops as part of community service and then donate the boxtop money to get items off the wish list for the Community Transitional School this year (this is a PPS school for homeless children which has approximately 80 students). A motion was made to have the money raised by the Boxtops for Education program donated to the 8th grade service program, which passed.

T-shirt order forms are due today, but shirts will also be for sale at the Harvest Festival and orders will be available again in the spring. Apple order forms are due soon, and SCRIP orders are due next Monday.

The next PTA meeting is November 12th, with a potluck in the cafeteria before, babysitting during the meeting, and the Grant Principal speaking at the meeting.