

PTA General Membership Meeting

October 10, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

PTA President Kristen Sheeran called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without opposition. These can be found on BigTent at http://www.bigtent.com/usr/files/72451719_2_00_PTAMinutes091212.doc

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The October balance sheet and profit and loss statement were presented and are available at http://www.bigtent.com/usr/files/73057707_2_00_ACCESS_Academy_PTA_-_Profit_and_Loss_Budget_vs_Actual_Report_YTD_10312.pdf
http://www.bigtent.com/usr/files/73057746_2_00_ACCESS_Academy_PTA_-_Balance_Sheet_Standard_Report_YTD_10312.pdf

It was noted that the Give! campaign income stands at about \$3,500, last year at this time it was at about \$5,000.

- A question was raised about the feasibility of obtaining a card reader to facilitate electronic contributions. Would be feasible but not with our treasurer's current phone technology.
- The Give! button on BigTent which allows electronic contributions is currently on the About page. A suggestion was made to increase its prominence.
- The need for a separate Technology fund-raiser was again discussed. (Several students have expressed enthusiasm for the iPads purchased last year.) Possible fundraisers include
 - Auction raffle
 - Restaurant night at Laughing Planet to be scheduled in November or December
 - Restaurant night at the Kennedy School (ACCESS will apply this year for a night in 2012-2013).

STANDING RULES

A copy of the Standing Rules can be found at

http://www.bigtent.com/usr/files/73072328_2_00_Access_Academy_Standing_Rules_2012.pdf

A motion to change the meeting date to 2nd Wednesday of the month was passed without opposition.

- A concern was raised regarding the current kickback of \$0.50 for ACCESS PTA from the annual dues. (Cost to National PTA of processing the dues and issuing a check is ~0.50.) It was suggested that this kickback be changed either to \$0 or to something more significant. Discussion tabled, since changes should not take effect until next year.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **POLITICAL ADVOCACY**

Continues to work on the November bond election. Activity has mainly focused on the capital bond proposed for the November election. Priorities in reconstruction focused on identifying the schools which had the worst profiles with respect to seismic stability and disabled access.

➤ A question was raised about whether the focus on selected schools might limit popular support. The cost of making capital improvements to all schools was considered to be prohibitive,

- **MOVING**

A committee to look into the logistics of moving and establishing the school in a new location will begin meeting in October or early November. This will not be concerned with evaluating potential locations, as this is in the hands of the district.

- **TRANSPORTATION**

A committee is forming to consider issues regarding bus routes. This will not likely result in changes to bus routes for this year, in light of ACCESS' imminent move, but will likely help establish a process for establishing optimal routes.

NEW BUSINESS

Bond Election: A motion to express support for the capital bond placed on the November election was passed without opposition.

Chess Club: A chess club (separate from the more competitive chess league) would like to operate after school. If this activity is run by parent volunteers under the PTA, it may be substantially cheaper than if it is contracted out to an outside organization. **The activity would be conducted at no cost to the PTA as it would** would be self-supporting through parental fees. **It is understood that the parents will** arrange to subsidize students who cannot afford the fees **with a scholarship. A motion to allow a chess club to operate after school under the PTA, with expense and income line items of \$2000, contingent on the establishment of a scholarship option, at no cost to the PTA was passed without opposition**

Future Topics: PTA President Kristen Sheeran would like to know what topics people would like to see addressed in future meetings either through discussion or through guest speakers. Please contact her at ksheeran@ecotrust.org with suggestions. Suggestions so far include:

- High school options for ACCESS students
- Growth vision for ACCESS (e.g. What is the 5-yr plan? Might it include 9-12 at some point?)
- Equity issues in the population of students aware of and opting to attend ACCESS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20