

ACCESS PTA Board Meeting

10/14/15

Call to Order 6pm

Treasurer's report- Abbie Rankin. Teacher reimbursement was recalculated, and is actually \$200 more than initially calculated, but still at \$500 per FTE. There is a new drop box in the office for PTA checks and money.

Principal's announcements and updates- David Wood.

Staffing update: Trish Hendry will be back tomorrow (Thursday) and will overlap with Pam for 2-3 days.

State assessment results: individual results should be available before parent teacher conferences next week, and they are getting mailed home this week and next. As a whole our results were strong, but there were some differences between middle school boys and girls, and some middle school boys in particular scored lower on language arts than on math.

Site Council will be meeting for the first time this year on Oct. 26th. An agenda will come out on the 19th, but will likely include what we as a school are advocating for in a high school program. There are data from a student and parent survey that will be available at the meeting with respect to the high school experiences of our former students. There should be some R and E data available also, but maybe not quite as soon. Also, all focus option schools will be part of a periodic review, which will involve being able to document our students' growth while they are at ACCESS. The standard evaluation tools aren't reliable for kids who are far above average, so we need tools to document student growth that are reliable for our students. This might include piloting some more objective reading, writing, and math instruments that are more reliable for our kids. This could also include products that are computer adaptive. The program review isn't just about scores, but also includes student and parent experiences. District goals include high school graduation rates as well as test results. The district is behind in evaluating focus school but will likely do language immersion schools first before ACCESS.

We have had a goal of increasing diversity, but this may take a bit of a back burner for next year as we may not be able to expand the school much or at all next year due to space, so we essentially have the students that we have for now, and will focus on doing a good job educating our current students.

We are hosting a principal for a day tomorrow, Charu Nair, the director of the World Trade Center in Portland and professor of international Relations at Marylhurst University. She will visit classrooms including 7th and 8th grades.

Conferences are on the 21st and 22nd and will include day and evening conferences. Because our middle school population is so big this year Mr. Wood is encouraging families to divide by alphabet with A-L coming the first day and M-Z the second. There will be separate times for elementary math

class conferences, likely in the evening at a later date. Josh, our para educator, will be here to organize activities for students who need to come with their parents. Elementary conferences are 20 minutes and middle school conferences are 10 minutes, and middle school teachers will have timers to help keep things flowing well.

Middle school math: some 6th graders and 8th graders need an extra boost in math, and there will likely be some every other day support through Ms. MacKinnon alternating with every other day PE for students who need that. A parent asked if there was any thought to having a teacher who would do for language arts what Ms. MacK. does for math, by helping push in with extra support and working with kids who could use extra support in language arts. Mr. Wood said that it would be great to be able to do that, but it would need Foundation support as we don't have funding for that.

Old Business: August and September minutes were voted on and approved.

New Business: A group of parents including Deborah and Gail are heading up an earthquake preparedness task force. There are 3 levels to this: 1) having supplies available in case of an earthquake 2) individual classroom preparedness- bookshelves that could fall are the greatest issue here, but otherwise it's pretty good, and 3) the building itself and how it would fare in an earthquake. With respect to the building there may be some specific things that could be fixed, and there are also more long-term projects for the building. Heather recommended having a clear list of best practices that could be carried with us to a new location since we may not be here long term.

We need a new volunteer to do this year's yearbook, as a parent who is not here this year did it last year and we don't have anyone yet for this year.

Guest Speaker: Pamela Kislak, ACCESS parent and member of D-BRAC. D-BRAC hasn't yet released the maps for new boundaries, which were supposed to be out by now, but they should be out on Oct. 29. The hope is that the new boundaries will work for the next 25 years as the district grows. There are 25 members on the committee: parents, staff, and community members. There are 2 teachers, one counselor, and one principal among the members. They have been meeting for 7 months, 2-4 times monthly. So far they have looked at the policy and administrative directives that determine boundaries, and the values that need to be applied to this. These values include equity, environment (the right number of kids in the building), and access to robust programs, including enrichments beyond core classes. Middle school should be 675-800, but few buildings can accommodate this. Where they are now is a discussion of key performance indicators (inputs and outputs) to determine the maps. The ideal is to have 3 strands of kids going through each grade. 2 is OK, but some schools have just one which is too few. The number of kids in the building is also a factor. Pamela mentions that the committee and district does have good intentions. They are talking about how to communicate the key performance indicators to the community and families. KPIs include what distance kids have to walk to school, and how many families will be affected by the changes. The district also doesn't want the same kids to have to go through changes twice if possible.

What does this mean for ACCESS? We don't know yet. Rose City Park may reopen as a neighborhood school, and will likely move again in the future.

The maps will show the new boundaries, which will be followed by a month of public comment. Maps will show how KPIs are affected by maps and how schools are affected by the maps. D-BRAC will then look at comments and make revisions, and it will then be presented to the school board and superintendent. A parent asked if maps will include only current schools, or also schools that could be opened. Pamela wasn't sure, but maps will include populations now and anticipated future population. Also, these maps may not answer where ACCESS or focus option programs will end up. This process will be going on for years.

A parent asked about the time-line for beginning implementation, and Pamela replied that the goal is next fall, because there are some current schools that desperately need relief from overcrowding or from having too few students for a robust program.

Sarah Singer is the systems planning performance administrator (“the date person”) and Pamela will be asking her to communicate with focus option families even if focus option schools aren't explicitly mentioned on the maps. It may feel more disconcerting to focus option school in the short term because we likely won't know initially where we may end up, but she reassured us that they won't forget about ACCESS.

The meeting on the 29th is open to the public, and is also live-streamed and will be up on the district website afterward.

Announcements:

The book harvest is underway- please donate used books.

The Harvest festival is Sunday from 1-4

The apple and pear sale ended today.

Thursday Oct. 22nd ACCESS is hosting lunch for the staff of Rose City Park, and a sign up link was emailed to families. There is a dinner on Wednesday hosted by Beverly Cleary families, and ACCESS families can sign up to bring items then too.

Parent support is needed for the Halloween haunted carnival. An email will be sent out about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.