

ACCESS PTA General meeting 11/4/15

7 p.m. Call to Order, Introductions

Disaster Preparation Task Force update and discussion 7:10-7:20. Four categories were evaluated: the building itself, internal building components, emergency supplies, and community education and response. Internal building components include what things might fall in classrooms, and how to support teachers in the event of a disaster. Each classroom already has a bucket with a flash light and first aid kit. The DPTF asked for PTA support in the form of \$179.84 to have water and energy bars in each classroom as part of emergency supplies. Long term the school should have supplies that would last 72 hours. Community education/response includes families preparing their own homes, helping to ready the classrooms, having a plan for picking up children in case of an emergency, and raising money to have 72 hours of emergency supplies. The task force is working with Beverly Cleary, the district, and the City of Portland for planning. A motion was made to use \$200 in PTA funds for short term supplies, which was passed. It was suggested that the ACCESS/BC co-location Facebook page could be used as a location for discussion of this issue. Molly from the PPS emergency office is working with individual schools on disaster preparedness. It was recommended that we make sure there is preparation for fires as well, as this is a major cause of problems after earthquakes.

Treasurer's Report- Abbie Rankin 7:20-7:25. We have had 3 major fundraisers so far: Chinook Book, apples, and t-shirts. Ben Burtle is working on an order form for ACCESS t-shirts, sweatshirts, and baseball caps. The equity fund will cover t-shirts for students who don't yet have one and whose family can't afford to purchase one. We are also working for a date for the Atomic Cabaret, which hopefully will raise more money this year than last (it was a great event- everyone should come!).

Old business 7:25-7:30. Last month was a PTA board meeting with a "Parent's University" session. Next month's session will continue with the topic of the social-emotional needs of the gifted. Last month's attendance was approximately 15-20 parents and it was well-received. If anyone has ideas for topics or speakers they would be welcomed for future sessions. Last year's covered cyber-bullying and online porn. It was suggested that we could cover how to address the current district changes with our children. Heather asked about approving the minutes from last months' minutes, but few people had read them, so it was tabled for next month.

New business 7:30-7:45. Sue suggested organizing children to collect personal care items for the homeless, which could be donated to the Portland Rescue Mission or other group. She would be willing to organize it. David Wood also mentioned that the PTA clothing closet is in need of winter clothes, and perhaps this could be a joint coordinated effort. Sue will work with Mr. Wood to organize this.

December 5th from 12-3 we will have a book fair, at the Barnes and Noble in the Lloyd Center. We will have student performances and teachers will have wish lists of books that they would like purchased for the school. This is a good way to grow our school library, and Barnes and Noble will donate a percentage to ACCESS from purchases, including online (usually during the week of the book fair). It

was asked if the librarian has a current wish list, and Mr. Wood wasn't sure but he will ask. It was suggested that a library wish list be put on Google Drive, or emulate Mr. Diltz who last year had a wish list on his library website.

David Fikstad noted that in the past we have tried to do book fairs at small independent bookstores but we didn't make as much money, so we reverted to the big bookstore. However he suggested that we still try to coordinate an event with A Children's Place or a different neighborhood bookstore such as a book reading with a parent author.

Heather Kent discussed the Educator Appreciation Nomination, where families can use a paper form or complete an online survey to nominate teachers. Forms will go home with students and she will send out a link via email.

The Auction kick off meeting will be this Sunday at 3pm, at Val Aicheson's house. A flier went home in backpacks. The auction itself is scheduled for Saturday April 2nd. A parent asked if there could be a list of what could potentially be funded if we raise different given amounts of money at the auction, which could be motivating to raise more money.

Mr. Wood stated that on Friday 11/6 a letter will go home regarding the school directory. We purchased a license to use My School Anywhere through the PTA. Addresses and phone numbers didn't get uploaded because of a computer glitch, so it will be important for each family to individually add that information, but email addresses did get uploaded along with family names and student names. None of this is publicly available; only ACCESS families and staff can access it. Families can choose to opt out of any information being included. Information will go out in backpacks and via email.

It has been difficult to get people to volunteer for events, and it was asked how we could do this better. Mr. Wood suggested that it could be done through a function of the directory itself, or through Sign Up Genius. Lydia Dennehy is the volunteer coordinator and she said that she sent out an email link to fill out a volunteer form, but many parents didn't recall having received that so she is going to send it out again.

Mr. Wood has been in communication with middle school families about additional math support, which is going well. Mr. Lanners is looking for more bike parts for his 6th grade science elective. He thanked Sarah for the Halloween carnival and David Fikstad for the Halloween dance.

Tuesday next week is **Game Night**. There is no school the following day (Veteran's Day).

Mr. Wood is going to the National Association for Gifted Children conference next week for the first time, and he hopes to come back with more good ideas for gifted education.

It was asked if there would be another Dine Out next month, and Denise Edgard is working on that. She is trying to line one up for each month. We raised \$500 at Por Que No last month.

District Boundary Review process and planning 7:45-8:30. Pamela Kislack.

An additional PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday November 24th before the break as the public meetings will have been held by then and we can further discuss the process. The expectation is that we will be able to add to prior input gathered in discussions before the 2012 move to RCP, and communicate our input to DBRAC and the school board.

Review of process and time line: Scenarios went out, disaggregated data went out yesterday, and DBRAC will meet 3 times in the next 4 weeks. There are 10 community meetings scheduled which start next Monday 11/9. DBRAC will make a recommendation to the superintendent at the end of December, and she will take that under advisement and make a recommendation to the board in January or February. After that the board will make decisions, with a vote planned for February. Change will begin in the Fall, but will be rolled out over the next 2-3 years.

It was suggested that we compile a summary of ACCESS recommendations after the PTA meeting on 11/24, and give it to the school board and DBRAC. There is also an email address to PPS DEBRAC linked from the PPS “Growing Great Schools” web page.

A parent recommended we be part of the conversation before the 24th, and perhaps meet earlier and plan a letter writing campaign. Pamela pointed out that the board won't be considering this until January, and actually it might be adverse to be too vocal until after the planned neighborhood meeting process takes place (honoring the process).

Scenario 1 has ACCESS staying at RPC without Beverly Cleary. **Scenario 2** has ACCESS at Kellogg, co-located with the Creative Science School. The power point presentation and discussion also gave the option of putting the Russian Immersion Program in Kellogg, and moving ACCESS to Tubman with or without the Multiple Pathways programs (a collection of alternative programs). Questions include what the capacity is of Kellogg and Tubman, and whether there will be room for growth if we are co-located there; the conditions of the buildings (such as seismic vulnerability, playgrounds, science labs, etc.); and what the transportation time would be to get students to the different locations.

Parents Desmond Kirkpatrick and Tamar Moor completed an analysis comparing commute times to the 3 buildings which is posted on the ACCESS Facebook page. Google Maps was used to determine how long it would take to get to each of the 3 buildings from every neighborhood PPS school, and they also looked at the number of students at each school, the percentage of TAG identified kids, and the percentage of disadvantaged students. They graphed the percentage of kids in transit for given times going to each location. Tubman had the shortest average transit time, then RCP, then Kellogg. Disadvantaged children would have an even greater transportation time to Kellogg. In addition Tubman is near public transportation in away that the other locations are not. From a transportation perspective it is clear that Tubman has a significant advantage over Kellogg, and to a lesser extent over RCP. A parent stated that Kellogg is much more ADA compliant than the other schools, and has excellent facilities.

A parent noted that information is available about capacity, and Kellogg and Tubman can handle a 3 strand K-8 while RCP can only handle a 2 strand K-8. Another parent pointed out that most buildings need seismic upgrades, so this isn't a great criterion to use. Other facilities issues may be more

relevant. Mr. Weisner and Ms. Egan taught at Tubman, and would have information about the building and its facilities.

A parent asked what the probability was that the 2 scenarios might be blended, and Pamela said that it is very likely.

What is the likelihood that another building might be suggested for ACCESS? Pamela stated that it is very unlikely due to size needs, and the fact that there are few larger buildings available.

It was suggested that we form committees to address various related issues, including transportation, facilities, and surveys. Heather suggested that we have just one committee to address all of these, and to have a meeting next week. At the end of the meeting Saturday the 14th was decided on as a time for this committee to meet, with exact time and place to be determined. An email notification will go out for those interested.

It was suggested that we consider the issue of high school as we discuss school location. ACCESS has historically funneled to Grant because that was the neighborhood school for Sabin, and Pamela feels that it is not necessarily true that we could continue to feed to Grant from a different location. The 3 buildings feed to 3 different high schools (Kellogg to Franklin and Tubman to Jefferson), so that is something to consider. The Site Council has not yet met this year so isn't working on it yet.

David has a leadership committee meeting tomorrow and can bring up questions.

It was asked if we can visit the buildings. Maybe not, but we have 3 teachers who taught at Tubman and Mr. Wood has leadership meetings at Kellogg, so we may have some information about that.

It was asked if there is a process for a growth plan for ACCESS, and we're not sure. A parent asked if including a stand alone high school is an option, and that is something that the site council is considering. A final question was when we would move, and how long would we be there (would it be another interim home).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.