

ACCESS PTA Board Meeting December 9, 2015

Call to Order- 6pm introductions.

Treasurer's Report- Abbie Rankin. Changes since last month: 2 unexpected donations- Oddfellows donated \$24 and Aspire Dental donated \$100. We went over by \$19.12 on the cost for emergency supplies. The Atomic Cabaret was canceled for this year, and this was budgeted to raise \$650 dollars (plus there is a loss of community building). Fund-raising through T-shirt sales has been strong. The GIVE Campaign continues to bring in contributions, and is now \$2,000-\$3,000 from its goal. We were reminded that Amazon Smile contributes money to ACCESS. Seana Lane (who runs Scrip) wasn't able to attend, but asked Abbie to remind us that Scrip is a great way to get gift cards, and the next order is due Monday 12/14.

Principal's announcements and updates- Mr. Wood. "At long last", instructions for changing information in the online directory will go home 12/10, and families will have 10 days to opt out or make changes before it goes online. Emails will go out and paper letters will go home in backpacks. If families do nothing the information will include student and parent names, and emails. Addresses can be added. Only current families will be able to access the directory, and this will be after 12/21. Information will roll over from year to year for children who remain at ACCESS.

There has been a lot of community conversation about an event that occurred in the 7th grade last week. Starting in 2nd semester there will be time set aside for the middle school to gather and communicate about social climate issues or students who feel that their voices have not been heard. This will be led by Mr. Harkness. Also students need a forum to express leadership, so the leadership class will come back in the second half of the year. . This will primarily be 8th graders, but possibly also 6th and 7th grade students. As a result of the community discussion the staff has heard that the middle school students need more time to communicate within and between grades. There will be both school-wide efforts at communication as well as class-specific efforts. A parent suggested a suggestion box as an alternate method for communication.

There have been a couple security concerns in the last 2 weeks. This include more neighborhood people on the property recently, a couple hypodermic needles found on the property, and a break in (into the Chinese classroom, where 2 projectors were stolen). The staff is asking all visitors to wear visitors badges. The school nurse went to all classrooms to show them what a needle and syringe looks like and what to do if they see one.

A parent asked what the door policy is, and all doors are locked after 8:45, except the front door which is left open. Doors are not to be propped open. There is a security camera so that the office can see who is coming in the front door, although it doesn't record. This is a recent security upgrade, and at the same time a key card entry was added for staff.

There isn't any new news on the boundary issue, but we almost definitely will be in this same building next year.

Heather Kent mentioned that she spoke with a person who attended the DBRAC meeting, and we were

mentioned at 2:45 (in case you want to watch the video of the meeting)

It was mentioned that kids who wrote letters to the DBRAC committee or the board did get responses from administrators and DBRAC members. Families are encouraged to have their kids write letters and include their grades in the subject line.

Old Business- Minutes from October and November minutes were approved.

Earthquake taskforce: the PTA was thanked for its contribution to support getting supplies. Buckets in each classroom were checked and some were not complete, and those will be fixed. Some rooms didn't have buckets, there were some rooms that they didn't realize needed supplies, and there may be needs for allergy-free supplies. Cheerios were suggested as an options that would fit the needs of our students with food allergies. Funds were requested to fill these deficits, and \$100 was approved to finish the emergency supply buckets.

Yearbooks: In January, 8th graders will be looking at starting yearbooks, and parent volunteers will be needed.

Collections for the Portland Rescue Mission are going well, and 3rd and 4th graders responded well to that.

A LEGO Robotics team (team W.H.A.T.) is collecting magnetic utensils for the cafeteria

No New business or announcements.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.