

Minutes

ACCESS Academy PTA General Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 7 p.m to 8:30 pm.

BESC Building, 501 N Dixon, Portland, OR

Meeting Called to Order by ACCESS PTA President Kurt Kemmerer at 7:05 pm.

ATTENDANCE: 19 people signed the attendance list, 18 of whom were members for 2018-2019. 6 voting members constitute a quorum for a General Membership Meeting.

All attendees introduced themselves.

Keeley Simpson, area coordinator for PPS, including ACCESS; introduced herself. She recently moved to Portland from Houston. She used to lead an all-TAG school for K-8 in Texas. She reported that Advisory Committee quarterly meetings and TAGAC meetings will be scheduled soon.

ACCESS Principal Krista Blovad and Assistant Principal David Jamieson attending.

Approval of Minutes: MOTION to approve the May 16, 2018 – PTA minutes moved by Phoebe Shen, Seconded by Kinnari Shah, unanimously passed.

3. PTA Treasurer Sally Maltman gave the PTA 2017-2018 Annual report. (See attached)

o July 2017 - June 2018 – started and ended with \$32K in assets; raised \$21,000 in fundraising (non-designated), spent \$18,000 on \$8000 for classroom expenses; \$3000 in teacher/community grants; \$2000 for school needs (library books, playground equipment, emergency prep, music program support, etc.), \$2,000 for school and community fun events and enrichments, \$1000 for admin costs, and \$2,000 on other expenses (charitable donations, school directory subscription, etc.)

o Phoebe Shen moved to approve the PTA 2017-2018 Annual Report; seconded and unanimously approved

4. PTA Treasurer Sally Maltman gave the Treasurer report. (See attached)

o Teachers have been spending earlier in the school year than in past years, likely due to the building move (on purchases to get rooms ready, painting, etc)

o PTA bought balls for recess at Lane at beginning of year,

- A parent shared that the ACCESS PE teacher at Lane says she needs balls, yoga mats; Per Sally, the PE teacher receives funding for classroom expenses which could be used to purchase equipment for PE

Early last school year, PTA membership agreed to informally earmark \$10,000 for a future building move of ACCESS to a permanent location. Current PTA Board now recommends PTA “release” this money into general budget since ACCESS program was ultimately moved to 2 temporary sites (Vestal and Lane) and a subsequent move to a permanent home is not imminent. Adoption of 2018-19 Budget will implicitly approve this recommendation.

A parent asked for clarification regarding the \$10,000 earmark vs. the 'Building Needs' line item in the budget. Sally stated that PTA solicits ideas and priorities for these funds from the principal, but PTA ultimately retains discretion on how to utilize the funds.

A parent expressed concern that teachers are using individual classroom funds to purchase items that could be considered 'Building Needs', such as paint for classroom walls. Sally emphasized that the Building Needs budget is only \$1,000, with a few hundred of that already spent or spoken for.

A parent questioned whether use of teacher classroom funds is intended to be limited in scope (such as for enrichment or field trips). Sally responded that teachers are given autonomy to spend classroom funds as they see fit, including on physical classroom improvements, office supplies, etc.

A parent suggested that Building Needs funds be used to purchase a fan for each teacher. It was suggested that some teachers already have fans. There was general consensus that PTA should purchase a fan for every teacher who would like one.

5. Review of Proposed 2018-2019 ACCESS PTA Budget (see attached).

Phoebe Shen moved to approve the budget; seconded. Discussion followed.

Discussion of distinction that Auction funds go to Foundation, not PTA. Clarification that Foundation monies must be spent on school staffing; PTA funds spent on things to support the school, cannot support school staffing.

The Professional Development line item in the proposed budget was discussed. Sally reported that over \$1000 is allocated in the proposed budget for up to 4 teachers to attend the OATAG conference on giftedness on October 20. This allocation would cover conference fees, plus a \$100 gift card of appreciation for each teacher who attends (up to 4). A parent suggested that PTA should pay for as many teachers to attend as would like to go. No objections were raised to this suggestion.

Phoebe Shen proposed amendment to 2018-2019 ACCESS PTA Budget to include a Readathon fundraiser. Kathy Martin seconded.

A parent asked, "What is the GIVE! Campaign?" GIVE! Campaign is a fundraising drive that serves as ACCESS PTA's largest fundraiser. Many years ago, the ACCESS community decided to solicit donations through a fundraising drive rather than run sales-related fundraisers (candy, wrapping paper, cookie dough, etc.). A long-time parent added that fundraisers in addition to the GIVE! Campaign were intended to have a "community" aspect (ie. Dineouts)

Discussion of T-shirts offered to all new students and families in need for free, and for all other students for \$5 each. Determination to offer same pricing to ACCESS staff.

Discussion and agreement to change Scrip fundraising provider from Tigard-Tualatin (physical gift card sales) to Benefit Mobile (mobile gift cards sales), as discussed at previous PTA meeting.

Discussion of cost of yearbook last year, and desire to either reduce cost of yearbook and/or recoup donations more effectively to cover yearbook costs.

Discussion of desire for support of 5th graders as oldest cohort at their location, possibly including celebration at end of year for them, and/or activities such as safety patrol. Discussion tabled until next month's meeting.

Discussion of offering more Literacy enrichment, possibly in form of poetry night as occurred previously; perhaps connect with Readathon.

Discussion of \$6,200 line item included in the proposed budget for 20 Chromebooks plus cart for ACCESS @ Lane. Sally shared feedback from middle-school language arts teacher Thom Johnson that middle-school teachers at Lane struggle to coordinate shared use of existing Chromebooks due to the shortage of Chromebooks available. Teachers have to adapt lesson plans and can't teach the way they want without technology available.

After discussion, a decision on a Chromebooks purchase was postponed, in favor of combining these funds (\$6,200) with those budgeted for PTA grants (\$3,000), and consulting further with teachers and administrators for best use of these funds before making a decision.

Principal Krista Blovad reports she is planning to put together a committee of teachers and parents for short- and long-term technology needs planning. PTA officers will present at upcoming staff meetings about grant and classroom monies available, and will solicit feedback on teacher requests/needs.

Budget passed unanimously with amendments of Readathon addition and combined funds for PTA grants. Keep it as a combined line-item of \$9,200 for PTA grants with teacher/administrative support/input., first available for sending any teacher or counselor to OATAG conference on October 20 who would like to go.

6. Principal's Report provided by Krista Blovad and David Jamieson.

Krista noted the Principal's Coffee is scheduled tomorrow morning at Vestal. She reported ACCESS has been allocated 0.5 additional staffing for a Special Education teacher at Vestal (for a total 1.0 FTE at Vestal). They have offered the new 0.5 position to someone from out of state with Special Education and Talented and Gifted Certifications. She noted ACCESS also hired a 0.25 FTE Educational Assistant who starts Monday at Lane. They have hired a PE teacher for Vestal, who is the parent of a Vestal kindergartener and lives nearby. Now waiting for that person to be released when her replacement is hired at her current school. They are also waiting for the Advanced Math and Technology teacher at Lane to be released by his district.

- Principal's announcements and updates – Krista Blovad, David Jamieson (15 minutes)
 - Will make other opportunities for contact with principal
 - Additional .5 at Vestal to a total of 1 for SPED
 - Interviewed and offer today for .5 SPED position (SPED and Gifted certification)
 - Additional EA support supervision at lunch, recess, admin support: .25 just accepted and will start on Monday: Corey
 - Para for ½ blend, in hiring position
 - PE: hired a teacher, Vestal kinder parent. PE teacher in district already, did admin transfer, holding until hires replacement at other school
 - Advanced Math/Tech at Lane: frustrating no one in position now; no control, hired person, their district held them. The substitute has gone above and beyond. Orelle Adriana --- will be here Oct. 25

- Staff Meeting on Tuesday, PTA can present.

7. DEI Introduction and events was provided by Committee Chair Lina Reiss. She noted the committee's goals are outlined on the ACCESS web site. She reviewed accomplishments of past year, including drafting guidelines for 8th grade trip. She noted for the coming year the committee is hoping to plan events with Lane and Vestal, and author events in conjunction with colocation schools. The committee is also working towards recruiting more diverse students in admission process.

8. The ACCESS Advisory Committee Report was provided by AAC member Jennifer Ellis. She summarized past history of AAC from last year (ACCESS parents, staff, principal, district leadership, and school board members) to facilitate decisions about ACCESS program and placement. She reported going forward meetings will be quarterly. The committee started with 7 ACCESS parent members and is currently down to 3. The committee wants to transfer to all new parents by the end of the calendar year. If you are interested, please contact current member of AAC (Jen Ellis, Kristi Byfield, Andrea Paluso). Priority: trying to find a building; enrollment may be a topic of conversation; high school program moving forward.

9. No new business or questions were raised.

10. Announcements:

Harvest Festival/Haunted House; working with 8th graders in Art to plan the Harvest Festival; will need help with donations of stuff, and volunteers, particularly the Friday before the Harvest Festival (Festival is 10/28 2-4 at Vestal).

11. Meeting adjourned by PTA President Kurt Kemmerer at 8:37 pm.