

ACCESS Academy PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 7 pm to 8:30 pm
Virtual Meeting

The overall mission of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families to advocate for all children.

Meeting called to order by ACCESS President Kurt Kemmerer at 7:05 pm. The attendees introduced themselves.

ATTENDANCE: 23 people joined the meeting, 20 of whom were PTA members for the 2019-2020 year. 6 voting members constitute a quorum for a General Membership Meeting.

Minutes of 3/10/20 General ACCESS Academy PTA Meeting approved as written:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SypkXrgCeycbTO1zhGgy2QkX-ZRoFmjVQe7h6u0N2JY/edit?usp=sharing>

Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Rabby

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=10K0yR12h-FI4Zmlq1ILXmvlUVw-r1C9L>

Since our last meeting, received Adobe grant of \$5000, thank you Kathy Martin. Also received other employer matches. Helping Hands main expense out (thank you Tanya Schaefer for coordinating); did a double amount (\$200/family) at early spring break. Some limited funds left, were planning to hold this pending future needs and could possibly distribute before end of the school year. Did not want to do another ask prior to Foundation ask. Have sent reminders to teachers of amount of classroom funds still available/unspent. Currently have \$38,000 total left at this time.

Nominating Committee Report - Tanya Awabdy

Executive Team Nominations for next year:

President: Phoebe Shen (to serve 1 year term)

Co-VPs: Kathy Martin & Lisa Barte (to serve as president in 2nd year)

Co-Treasurers: Jennifer Rabby & Heather Spring-Emert

Co-Secretary: Ann Koski

These nominations will be voted on at next General PTA Meeting. Other interested candidates welcome; contact access-academy-pta@googlegroups.com.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee Report - Tanya Schaefer (10 minutes)

Amber Keller and Tanya Schaefer are co-chairing the DEI committee. Natalie Hval again coordinated talk about Japanese Internment Camps; this year included 8th grade, and 4th and 5th grade. This dovetailed with new genocide curriculum in the curriculum this year. DEI continued to coordinate Helping Hands and coordinate with school counselors to support students. DEI proposed PSU be community-focused rather than a fundraiser, which was successful. Encouraged by virtual attendance at today's meeting, might be good to include this as an option at all meetings going forward. DEI also has advocated for gender balance and outreach in enrollment. April was the 1 year of the DEI book discussion; everyone is welcome from the community, whether you have read the book or not. Goal is to have another event such

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as Renee Watson with more workshops; this is on hold currently. Have also been interested in promoting a centralized school supply ordering system, but this is on hold currently as well due to COVID-19, though still top of mind as an opportunity in the future. Ginger notes that the Site Council has a corresponding goal of family engagement, starting with the new families, improving onboarding, supporting and engagement throughout the year.

Foundation Update - Rob Coury

The State of Emergency necessitated cancelling the Foundation event. Foundation has secured a date in Spring 2021 for skate party and adult event. Waiting to get more information from Ginger once she knows more details about budget, but will do some sort of on-line appeal. May also include the option of donating to PPS for families impacted by COVID-19.

Principal's Update - Ginger Taylor

Staffing and Budget Updates: Because of the shutdown, PPS HR director has implemented a hiring freeze while district leadership sorts out impact of COVID on the budget, as city tax and state tax will be impacted. ACCESS was expecting to be able to add another ½ time counselor for next year, but not sure if that position remains on the table. Still need to fill Health/PE position at ACCESS @ Lane. The district has a 2-layer process for filling positions; internal candidates are processed before can open to outside candidates. Ms. Webb was offered and accepted the 5th grade position. Spanish at elementary didn't get posted during internal round because less than ½ time. Not sure where HR stands with placing unassigned internal employees, so possibly there is an unassigned Spanish teacher. With current staffing allocation we have, additional elementary math is not part of Spanish position, so would need to fund that from Foundation funds. If the Foundation is able to generate enough funds to support more .FTE, would like to keep EA at middle school, add EA for 3rd grade cohort, etc. What is the status of the Mandarin teacher at middle school? Will need to investigate.

Update on Virtual Education

There are a range of experience and comfort with adopting/using technology among teachers and staff. Hope to get to a point where, as a team, we have standard ways we are interfacing with students and families. Hope to have improvement within the next week. Middle School schedule is set, with office hours which may still be adjusted. Would be helpful to have all classes/events in the google calendar, with meeting access codes. Grades for will be Pass or Incomplete (which allows students to do remediation to earn the credit), as state grading guidance emphasizes the need to adopt a "do-no-harm" approach to virtual learning platform.

Do we know if the school year is being extended? Haven't heard one way or another. Instruction minimum has not yet been waived, though clearly will need to be.

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What is the status of placement tests for high school classes such as Spanish? They do not need to take a placement test, because our classes meet the high school standard so they will automatically be eligible for the next level of Spanish.

What is the status of health class in middle school, particularly sex education? We had Ms. Roble until Spring Break, then had scheduled staff from Multnomah County and Planned Parenthood to co-teach all of April. However, this is now off due to COVID-19, and there is not a teacher assigned for health, and the district will not allow school to put a sub in for health. Devin might be able to put a few ideas into the schedule and may be able to deliver some of the lessons. The curriculum is very straight-forward, and has a lot of critical information, including about healthy relationships and communication. Devin is thinking about how to adapt this for online platform. Perhaps could work with AnneMarie to use art platform for middle school during time of health sessions.

Enrollment Update

Ginger looked at SchoolMint; there are currently 81 applications in, approximately 2:1 boy:girl ratio. Expects application will be open another 4 weeks; Ginger is meeting with Linda Smith and Judy Brennan on Friday; not all TAG scores are in yet, so not everyone eligible to apply knows yet. Just waiting to set exact date for extended application window. After Friday will schedule 1-2 virtual open houses at each site. Principal's secretary will send message to current eligible families, and will try to get contact info for all eligible families to send them an invitation to virtual open house. Tanya Awabdy and Ginger have tried to push Enrollment and Transfer, Title 9, and district legal counsel regarding options for gender balancing. They have indicated can no longer set specific gender slots as that is potentially a Title 9 complaints regarding quotas. Ginger asked if School Mint could run lottery by grade level rather than for the whole school; unclear if this is an option. PPS legal says even gender weighting the lottery is not allowed.

Community Building Ideas

Talent show will continue virtually. Plan to have students record themselves and edit; organizers need help with editing, so please reach out if know someone who can help coordinate virtual musical numbers/editing etc. Probably will end up looking like a video and then have a viewing party. Adobe Creative Cloud license will allow good editing options which Devin can do, but he does not have a computer that can run Adobe Premier. Call out to anyone who could loan him such a computer for a few months. Some students might want to help with editing work as well.

Devin is working with students creating video morning announcements on a youtube channel posted on middle school teachers google classrooms.

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School is working on adding digital learning links centrally on the ACCESS web page

8th Grade Promotion: No set plan yet, but Devin and Ginger plan to meet with 8th grade teachers this week, and would like to connect with 8th grade parents as well for plans for ways to do promotion virtually/with social distancing. Will also ask the 8th grade students to give ideas and come to a consensus on what they will do.

Some organized evening events like trivia nights, virtual sleepovers, etc might be good for creating regular social connections. Need parent volunteers to help organize these events. Could use ongoing social supports to help students continue to connect. Larger and smaller events for different types of kids.

Marc Zollinger is doing some climate work by creating reward systems for the lower grades.

Sexuality and Gender Alliance will continue for middle school Thursdays after class.

Virtual Field Day being considered on Vestal Campus.

Devin welcomes ideas about different type of meet-ups. Perhaps families can volunteer to host smaller groups of virtual games. Maybe a shared "Fun Times" calendar for community to schedule events families will host with a small group of kids.

- **Announcements /Other**
 - PTA Zoom Subscription available for school-related virtual meetings. Email access.pta.sec@gmail.com to set up a meeting.
 - The PTA Online Directory is available to help stay connected with your student's friends and the ACCESS Community:
<https://accesspta.membershiptoolkit.com/home>
Select Directory for contact information; Select Signups to update your family's listing.

- **Adjournment** – 8:41 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, 4/16/20, 7:30 pm, DEI Book Discussion, [What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker](#),
Zoom ID: 567-947-110 Password 629098

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Wednesday, 5/13/20, 7-8:30 pm, ACCESS PTA Meeting, Zoom ID: 557-239-493 Password:
368821