

ACCESS Academy PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 24, 2018, 7 pm to 8:30 pm
BESC 501 N Dixon, Portland, OR

Meeting called to order by ACCESS President Kurt Kemmerer at 7:00 pm. The attendees introduced themselves.

ATTENDANCE: 16 people signed the attendance list, 14 of whom were PTA members for the 2018-2019 year. 6 voting members constitute a quorum for a General Membership Meeting.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION** to approve minutes of 3/19/19 ACCESS Academy General PTA Meeting. Phoebe Shen moves, Tanya Awabdy seconds. **MOTION PASSES**

Treasurer's Report - Sally Maltman \$28,397.36 assets in PTA account as of yesterday. Under fundraiser under grants, the \$5000 grant we were expecting came minus vendor processing fee. With this our fundraising is winding down for the year. We do have a matching contribution of over \$700 coming in, which is not yet reflected in the report. We also have more one dineout at the Por Que No on Mississippi, which last year was our largest dineout fundraiser. Our new scrip program is not taking off yet, but is made up for by other income. PTA cut a check for Foundation to cover 21 full-price tickets and 4 partial scholarship tickets for the Auction Skate Party. At last meeting we discussed possibility of spending from Helping Hands to assist families over Spring Break. Only 2 families requested assistance, and we had a designated donation come in so did not need to dip in to general funds to cover Helping Hands. We have supplies for emergency prep totalling over \$1700 coming in, so will have this expenditure in the next week.

MOTION: to overspend ACCESS@Vestal PE teacher Ms. Preble's classroom funding by \$100. This is to cover additional hula hoops needed for PE. Sally Maltman moves, Phoebe Shen, seconds. **MOTION PASSES**

A draft budget will be presented at the next (final) PTA meeting of the year, to allow the PTA to operate over the summer. If anyone has any feedback regarding the budget, please contact treasurer Sally Maltman.

Nominating Committee Member Report - Tanya Awabdy

Sally Maltman has completed her second 1-year term as treasurer, and Jennifer Rabby has stepped forward to run for treasurer to replace her. The remaining members of the Executive Committee are each willing to serve a second 1-year term. The full slate of candidates recruited by the Nominating Committee to run for PTA leadership positions at the elections held during next general PTA meeting includes: Kurt Kemmerer, President; Kinnari Shah, Vice-President;

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Tanya Awabdy, Vice-President; Phoebe Shen, Secretary; Kathy Martin, Secretary; Jennifer Rabby, Treasurer. Nominations will be accepted at that meeting from the floor as well.

DEI Update - Lina Reiss

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair Lina Reiss presented recent events. Committee member Natalie Hval arranged a presentation on Japanese Internment to the 8th graders recently, which was well received by the students and Social Studies teachers. We may reach out to her to present again next year. Ideally would expand to all middle schoolers next year. It would also be nice to do a multi-school presentation with host schools. John Blanck notes he could include recommendation to continue this in the notes to pass on to next administrator.

DEI members have also been involved with recruitment and outreach, and helping to connect prospective families with current families.

We also started a DEI Book Discussion Group to explore topics of race, class, and other diversity topics. Drop ins are welcome.

We are working on scheduling visit from author Renee Watson in the fall. There is a window of time she is available, and would like to reserve space for two 1-hour assemblies: one at Vestal for elementary and another at Lane. We may coordinate with Lane and Vestal since they may be interested too. This is paid through the Run for the Arts funds. Ideally this will be coordinated into the curriculum in advance.

DEI Co-Chair appointment- Kurt Kemmerer

Tanya Schaefer and Amber Keller are willing to co-chair the DEI committee, and are thus appointed DEI co-chair for the next school year.

Auction/Foundation Update - Kristi Byfield

We need an auction chair for next year, but we have everything else in place for next year. Kristi Byfield will continue to be Foundation President, and also have a Foundation Treasurer. We have a moving target, but we think we are within \$400 of our fundraising target for this year. We needed \$60,000 from the auction plus \$20,000 rollover to leave us with \$56,000 after we pay into the equity fund, which should give us what we need for extra FTE for next year. Some concern that the \$20,000 that rolled over was vital, and will not be available next year.

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Many recent meetings with transition from All Hands Raised to PPS for Foundation funds. It will be called "The Fund of PPS." PPS has been holding community meetings to address questions, but are still creating the structure as it emerges. They explained that All Hands Raised had 1.1 FTE that did Foundation work in the schools. Portland will have 1.0 FTE doing the same work. However, All Hands Raised spread the FTE over multiple positions, where as in PPS it will be a single position. Hopefully will not be much of a logistical change from a school fundraising standpoint. The PPS stated rationale for the change is for more transparency. PPS is also doing additional private fundraising. PPS has raised \$4.5 million in private grants for the next 4-5 year cycle, but that money will remain outside of The Fund.

Principal's Update-

John Blanck noted on admission process, we had the last parent meeting at Lane, with Linda Smith, TAG director. Ms. Smith noted that she has been told that there are often many last minute applications. Mr. Blanck feels we have had pretty good turnout, but not sure how many have applied. Letters did go out to families indicating their children may be eligible. Linda Smith plans to go through the applications and contact families with incomplete applications after the application window closes to allow them to complete the application.

Parent requests that attrition from ACCESS, particularly of class moving to 6th grade, be accounted for, so that sufficient numbers of new students are accepted. Mr. Blanck has only heard of 2 families who are not returning from 4th and 5th grade. Parent suggests possible survey, particularly of 5th graders, polling for anticipated return prior to completion of new application process, and most accurate numbers be communicated to Enrollment and Transfer to accept sufficient numbers of students. Last year and this year there was no poll of current parents, so number of slots forecast as available at ACCESS was not necessarily accurate. Parents recommend a poll be completed earlier in the school year to offer the most accurate numbers in the application process, and then again after the Focus Options close. Discussion of history of application process problems over the past 2 years, exacerbated by summer principal transition. Mr. Blanck notes this is very important and is high on his list of issues he will be monitoring, as it is vital to the makeup and future of the school. Mr. Blanck has also been advocating with the district to not reduce the school FTEs even if enrollment is lower in incoming 4th and 5th grade class, as well as make good use of waitlist.

Mr. Blanck sees the students looking more settled in the current sites. Looking at the Boundary process of the district will be important to ACCESS eventually moving to a single, central site.

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In admissions will also be paying attention to gender balance.

Schedules are very high on radar for next year. Teachers have made it clear they don't want to be working on schedules 3 days before school starts. Have already been talking to teachers about schedule issues at recent staff meetings, starting with math scheduling and assessments, as well as getting feedback from teachers on what to keep and what to change about the schedules. Meetings have already happened or are imminently scheduled with host principals to talk about parameters for space and schedules. Would like to plan ahead to make the transition from summer go smoothly.

Staffing updates: we are still looking to fill a few half-time positions, as well as being prepared for possibility of teachers leaving and filling the positions. Prepared in case someone is placed due to contracts in the building who might not be a good fit or who might not like to be at ACCESS, and explore other options in that case. Of teachers leaving: some are going to be leaving for personal/logistical reasons. Would like to have a full-time special education teacher at Vestal instead of 2 half-time, and keep a full-time counselor. Mr. Blanck noted he is not prepared to share specifics about staff departures at this time because he does not want to add to the community's anxiety about people leaving. We are currently between the internal phase and unassignment phase in district hiring process. The unassignment meeting is happening this Friday 4/26/19. Next will be the external round.

How long will John Blanck remain? He will be here through Memorial Day weekend, Friday 5/24. Teri Geist is on board to finish out the school year, so will be able to effectively transition planning for staffing etc. Krista Blovad could still return at any moment during this process. If that happened, he would request overlap to promote continuity. Typical contract for any administrator is June 30. There is a process for selecting a new principal with input from community and staff to interview any new candidates. There is still an issue of timing and having an adequate pool for a good match. Could even name an interim principal who will be there all year while they do the interviewing process over the following year, or could do a quick interview process.

Who will follow up on schedules and admissions over the summer with the current administrative situation? David Jamieson notes that schedule, though connected with staffing, in some sense can be built as a base and have more information from the hosting schools ahead of time, as well as staff. Mr. Jamieson works through almost all of the summer, so will follow up on admissions and enrollment. Is there a cut-off date within PPS for a student to

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leave ACCESS and return to a local school? No, you can return to your neighborhood school at any time. David Jamieson has authority as Asst. Principal to hire staff over summer, even if we are without a Principal.

It is also critical that Enrollment and Transfer keep a complete waitlist, not limit or cut off the waitlist. Linda Smith has indicated this needs to happen.

Mr. Blanck believes it is important to include mindfulness teaching for the kids, and is hoping to integrate this into the school community, such as reminding kids of gratitude.

Symphony field trip on 5/1; were hoping to have a picnic as a school group, but the bus schedule will not allow this. 1/2 classroom cannot attend because Symphony is only for 3rd grade and above. Looking at possibility of June 10 as an all-school celebration. May need PTA/parent help for tents, activities and food. Could be as structured as a field day, or more relaxed.

Field Day: speaking with Vestal Administration, their community would prefer to do Field Day separately, so June 10 might be a good Field Day for ACCESS as a whole. There is funding in PTA budget for field day bouncy houses etc.

Principal Coffee on Friday is at Lane; David Jamieson will be there as John Blanck will be at the staffing meeting.

New business

Deborah F. updates us that earthquake preparation materials will be arriving soon, and we will need volunteers to install in the classrooms, and access to the classrooms on a weekend. Would like to do this before the end of the school year. Perhaps on a field trip day. Also be aware that the third grade room will be having a wall built, and custodians will be moving all furniture over the summer, so might target week before school starts.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10: will discuss with administration, and will need volunteers.

No school on Wed., 5/8/19 for Rally and March; families are welcome to join rally on 11 am to 2 pm at Tom McCall Park.

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3rd grade teacher, Ms. Millis, has funding for a weighted lap blanket, and wondered if anyone who sews could make one with supplies purchased with their funding.

Announcements

Middle School Dance needs volunteers: this Friday.

Science Night Needs Volunteers: ACCESS Science Night, May 7th, 6:00-8:00 pm; please email

david.fikstad@gmail.com or go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AA4AB2AAAF49-family7>

Planning to do teacher appreciation gift cards. We are still active with that program, so Scholle would be willing to pick up if Sally orders.

Kurt Kemmerer adjourned meeting at 8:35 pm.