PTA Board Meeting

10/4/2016

7:00 – 8:00 PM

Lisa Seigel

Michaela Johnston

Terry Seery

Kate Schofield

Maya Rivera

Beth Thomas

Mindy Kassarba

Ruth Martin

Liz Rogers

Dr. Marcus

Lisa Buttner

Meeting Minutes: March and August

* APPROVED- Unanimous

Treasurer Update

* No news

Fundraising Report (Kara Saul via email)

* Tiger Appeal tomorrow
* Maya: Bingo Night
* Michaela: Suggestion for fun run event leading up to Takoma 5k

(Flower Ave Apartments Fundraiser Run

* Need to post on listserv)

Staff Appreciation Update/Planning

* October 20, 3:45-5:00, New Teacher Shower/Supplies. With social committee (Ms. Bruce).
  + Teachers will bring a cake
  + Suggestion to have coffee or snacks
* Had a great breakfast in August
* Conferences November 10- Dinner
  + Restaurant suggestions
    - Middle East Cuisine
    - All Set
    - Suggestion for home cook (family room)
    - El Gouilan
* Mid Year Supply donations
* Teacher appreciation week- May
  + Massages, 3 hours with 3 masseuses 10 mins/time
  + Car wash—cheap but takes coordinating
  + Suggestion: puppy or bunny petting
  + Karen Konrad is helping this year
  + Coordinate with grade parents and organize
  + Gift card raffle

Learning & Enrichment Committee Update

* Survey of teachers—prioritizing PTA activities. Going into Survey Monkey Friday.
* Best time to send? Do before conference time—next week
* Career Day? Will get feedback from teachers and determine length/format
* GeoBowl—packets went out last week
  + Some classes have not received
* Fall Book Fair—conference week but timing unclear
  + Terry to confirm dates with Lee Sours
* After School program
  + Started today
* Mini Grants
  + Due 10/14
  + Have not received any yet
  + Dr. Marcus to remind

Membership Committee Update

* So far 100 families signed up (compare to 75 last year this time)
* Community fair sign ups were significantly higher this year. Posters and staffing helped.
* Emails have gone to all members with volunteer links etc.
* Suggestion for membership forms at Columbus Day Open House and Bake Sale
* Not as many teachers signed up—need to email again
  + Continue to consider tying mini grants to membership if this is a priority
* Suggestion to redirect after school registration to a membership signup form next session.
* Question about new kindergarten family signups—Ruth not sure, will check.

Health & Wellness Committee Update

* Walk to School Day tomorrow
* Girls on the Run – Bridget Kaiser
* 5k Sunday Nov 13th
* Recess- Melinda and Ed
  + Would like an indoor recess policy
  + How does sedentary indoor recess affect students academically
* Salad Bar
  + Available grades 3-5
  + Has not gotten much use
  + Logistical barriers—payment line for kids bringing lunch, having to ask and get in line again.
    - Jenn Reilly and Lisa Buttner to explore other options with Angela of Food Services
    - Look at how it’s working at other schools
* Edible Garden
  + Repeating successful activities from last year grades K-2
  + 3rd grade teachers are submitting mini-grant to do a specific activity
  + Would like to expand to the additional courtyard
  + Some landscaping parents would be willing to lead a charrette
  + Need plan before raising more money/expanding program to grades 3-5
  + DC model with student farmers market
* Front Garden
  + Make more easily maintainable
  + Neighborhood landscaper will give discount
* Bike to School Day – May
* Green Committee- Teachers only
  + Would like help with recycling
* Possible yoga class for teachers?
* Fun and Fit Fest June?
* Establishment of health and wellness policy for RTES

Field Trip Money

* Reports from grades listed total amount spent only, but no details
* Would prefer a trip-by-trip line item
* Should we consider a contract
* Some grades have a balance from last year
* Vote that each grade’s budget will allow:
  + K, Pre, Headstart: Up to $400?
  + 1st through 3rd: increase to a cap of $800 including balance for last year
  + 4th and 5th give up to $800 for 4th and 5th new
* Suggestion that school request the money and provide receipts
  + Dr. Marcus would rather do it this way; less paperwork
  + Dr. Marcus will talk to Ms. Tredway
  + PTA will write up a letter explaining amounts
* For trips that involve approval from MCPS, parent volunteers need to be fingerprinted
  + Larger trips such as St. Mary’s
  + Mr. Marcus to clarify and send communication
  + Suggestion that PTA fund some fingerprinting and provide transportation
  + Postpone vote until more specifics known and exact balances known

Advocacy

* Field—MCPS building maintenance offered sod, but rescinded the offer. Now putting down topsoil and seed.
  + Lisa sent inquiry about sod with photos.
  + Not sure what this means for watering and usage.
  + Parks department helps maintain certain fields but not ours.
* Playground
  + Concerns about safety
  + Should we demand a meeting—we have minimum six years in this facility.
  + Mobilize phone calls
  + Mobilize news coverage
    - Let Dr. Marcus know if media is coming
  + Dr. Marcus can communicate to MCPS that parent community is upset
  + Do we have a landscaping expert who can come and assess options
    - Kate to ask her neighbor
* Robocall
  + Error this week—call came in late
  + Dr. Marcus: paper flyers more effective than robocall
  + Need for multiple channels
* PTA Meeting on October 20th
  + SSIMS
  + Highly gifted centers
  + School – hoping to provide curriculum information for parents of younger students
* Bingo Night- October 27th
  + Myra received donated board/bingo machine
  + Trying to find cards for Mexican traditional game (Lo Torea?), but having difficulty finding source
  + Pizza, fruit, water (sales)
  + Selling $5/card or $20/family
* Election Day Bakesale
  + Signup sheet going out for volunteers
  + Can only use space next to office
  + Myra can’t be there but need someone all day (one single person)
    - Signup Genius with shifts
    - Pizza in PM
    - Come to portion out the baked goods