

PTA General Membership Meeting

January 9, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

PTA President Kristen Sheeran called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

REPORTS

Political

Oregon PTA is planning a virtual lobby day for February 18th. They are asking that everyone send a short message to their state senator and representative in support of education. Details can be found at

Social Activities

The Valentine Dance this Friday, February 15th, is still in need of volunteers.

Foundation Auction

Procurement deadline is really this Friday, February 15th. Procurement has been very successful and this should be a great auction!

The auction will be Friday, March 8th at Oaks Park. There will be a chaperoned skating party at the same time, for which you can buy tickets when you purchase your auction tickets. It would be particularly helpful if attendees could buy their tickets for the skating party well in advance because they will be purchasing ACCESS t-shirts for all attendees in order to more clearly identify them at the rink.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The December treasurer's report was presented and is available at [http://www.ppta.org/PTA Documents/December Treasurer Report.pdf](http://www.ppta.org/PTA%20Documents/December%20Treasurer%20Report.pdf)
 - The Give! Campaign is still at about 65% of target (target 50% participation at \$100/child). It will be important to determine by the meeting in March whether we are going to be able to meet the obligations for the teachers' discretionary funds (\$700/FTE), which are the highest priority in PTA funding.
 - There was a reminder of the suggestion to make a push for Give! donations around tax refund time. There was a push at the end of the year, which did result in an uptick of donations.
It is expected that in the March meeting we will have a discussion of fundraising strategy and whether the Give! Model is the best approach.
 - The Laughing Planet restaurant fundraiser was quite successful, bringing in \$668.78. Thanks to Kristen Sheeran for organizing that.
 - The Chess Club shows an income of \$1,045, however the club has no net impact on the budget, this money will be paid out to the chess coach shortly.
 - The PTA started the year with about \$5,600 and currently has about \$11,000. The current year budget is intended to reach \$5,900 by end of year. There are no regulations concerning minimum balances, though there are tax implications if the balance is too high.

- A motion to hold a PTA raffle at the Foundation Auction was made and passed without opposition.
 - Possible targets for the funds raised in the raffle were discussed.
 - Academic programs: This line-item supports classroom activities such as guest speakers, classroom materials, or field trips for academic purposes. It was noted that not all classrooms are using these funds and some are drawing heavily on parent contributions to support field trips. It was suggested that perhaps this category should be designed to explicitly pay for a certain number of class field trips per year to aid in more equitable distribution of funds. **This topic will be revisited in a future meeting.**
 - Library: Funds would be used to support library purchases, which will move with ACCESS when a new location is found.
 - **A motion to designate the raffle funds for library use was made and passed without opposition.**

ACCESS RELOCATION

Summary to Date:

- Discussions regarding ACCESS relocation have been on-going for a long time. Recently, PPS collected a great deal of information regarding the ACCESS program, including numbers, and grade distribution, goals for the future of ACCESS, and important concerns regarding future placement.
- There was a particular urgency in this process this year, because Sabin is growing significantly and there will not be enough room in the building for ACCESS and Sabin next year.
- PPS identified two schools as potential sites, co-locating ACCESS with neighborhood schools in the Jefferson cluster.
- Most signs pointed to co-location with King Elementary and this looked like the probable decision.
- In the school board meeting on Feb. 11th, the board recommended that ACCESS not be co-located with King and that Carol Smith return with an alternate plan. A formal vote is planned for February 25th.
- Two members who were present at the board meeting said that they did not feel the board was specifically targeting ACCESS as unsuitable for location in the Jefferson cluster. Rather, they felt that most board members were saying that the decision to co-locate two schools with insufficient room for them both to achieve their desired growth was not strategically well thought out.
- Principal Bagby joined the meeting at this point, and concurred in this assessment. She also noted that it was a welcome development that the board was responsive to the concerns of the Jefferson communities.
- She noted that every board member she has spoken to, as well as the district administration, have very positive things to say about ACCESS. A fact which she attributes to the advocacy activities of the ACCESS parents.
- According to Sue Ann Higgens, Chief Academic Officer for PPS, closing ACCESS is not on the table.
- Principal Bagby and Sue Ann are to meet this week to decide what the next steps will be.
 - The next step is not for the parents and staff of ACCESS shopping around for an alternate location, much though many of us would like to do that.

- If we are writing to Superintendent Smith and the School Board, she urges us to invite them to come look at the program.
- Overall, Principal Bagby is very positive about the recent developments. She feels the district administrators have recognized the importance and value of the ACCESS program and have understood the message that we would like to be able to grow to meet the needs of the district.
- She notes that any program which is kept this small will end up being exclusive since it can accept so few kids. She is actively working to make the acceptance more equitable. Discussions are ongoing to revise the admission criteria for under-represented populations.
- There was a question regarding the recent reorganization placing ACCESS under the Grant cluster rather than under Alt Ed.
 - This was primarily done because ACCESS does not fit with the district's "Pathways to Graduation" emphasis in Alt Ed.
 - She feels this has been a positive development because it facilitates interactions with other neighborhood schools and helps to give a more reality to the program.
 - She notes that Carl Logan, administrator of the Grant cluster, is very supportive of ACCESS and recognizes its value to the district.
 - **A question was raised regarding the current state of ACCESS at Grant High School. Principal Bagby would like to bring Carl Logan to ACCESS for a Principal's Coffee in the near future to discuss this issue.**
- There was some discussion of whether ACCESS deserves to be called a special ed program. It is not. However, it was noted that many more of the students in ACCESS would likely be on IEP's if ACCESS did not exist. One member suggested that ACCESS is best described as a targeted intervention.
- The prospective parent information night held earlier in the evening was very well attended, approximately 100 people. A second information meeting will be held next Tuesday. Anyone wishing to participate in the information night should contact Principal Bagby. Similarly, anyone who cannot attend the information night but would like to be available as a potential contact to speak with prospective parents should contact her as well.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without opposition. These can be found on BigTent at <http://www.bigtent.org>
Meeting adjourned at 8:05