

ACCESS PTA

General Membership Meeting

May 19, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

An Executive Board meeting was called to order by David Fikstad at 6:45 due to the absence of general PTA members. At 7:10, a general PTA meeting was called to order.

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2011. Seconded. Passed unanimously. Minutes approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Financial Reports provided

The current financial picture is great. At the April 21 meeting, Amaya suggested that PTA provide Mr. Garcia \$3,000 in response to his request for funds for science equipment. At that time, Amaya reported that after the \$3,000 disbursement, there would still be \$2,000 in excess funds. This was a mistake. We do not have as much money as previously thought, but we are fine financially. Including the \$3,000 for the science equipment, there are commitments of \$9,626.35, and assets of 9,902.40.

- Funds from the Social Committee budget will be provided to Mr. Holm in response to his request for funds for Field Day.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Tou Meksavanh

The Auction was wonderful. The fact that the levy passed is a huge relief. Even though the bond measure did not pass, the close margin is very encouraging. It is amazing how much Portland supports its public schools. Because the levy passed, there will be no more cuts – aside from the loss of .84 FTE.

On Monday, May 23, there will be a meeting with Tou and Sacha Gilbert-Waggoner, Michael Kuebler, David Fikstad, and Sue Ann Higgins to discuss Access site issues. This group has been meeting periodically on this issue.

For the 2011-2012 school year, Access will include 1st grade in a blended 1st/2nd grade class. 3rd grade will not be a blend. 4th/5th grades will be two blended classes. 6th, 7th (2 classes), and 8th will not be blends. Math placement will continue to be and will always be on an individual basis.

For the 2011-2012 school year, there will be 21 8th graders and 41 7th graders. Because there is only funding for 200 students, Tou wants to see growth at the 1st grade level rather than adding students to the grades that are already full. Tou also wants to keep a wait list for every grade so that if a student leaves, she can draw from the wait list, even in the middle of the year.

Soccer during recess. During recess, some of the younger kids have been playing soccer with the older kids. This is an activity that is positive in many respects. In light of a few isolated incidents, Mr. Holmes and Tou are reminding students about sportsmanship, safety, and respect. They will continue to monitor the safety issues. Older students are encouraged to be good role models.

Grant High School. Tou has spoken with the Grant High School Vice Principal to determine what AP classes will be available to Access 9th graders next year. She was assured that as Freshmen, each student will be evaluated independently. Tou wants to be sure that the District is mindful of continuing the Access program at high school. She thinks it will be a disservice to place Access students back into the general cohort of Freshmen.

Principal at Access. There will be a full time principal at Access next year. Now that the levy has passed, there will be a full search for a principal, with opportunity for input from Access parents. It was suggested that this discussion start with a review of the meeting notes from the parent input meeting following notice that Mark Sandilands was leaving Access. The principal will not be Tou.

Q. Will the money raised at the auction be able to be used for an FTE next year?

A. I do not know. The principal determines how the foundation funds are used. The funds go into the Foundation. Under PPS rules, 1/3 goes to the general school fund, and 2/3 goes the Access. We have lost .8 FTE. The counselor position has been cut. Editor's Note: From the Auction report (see below), the Auction funds will not be able to support a teaching position for the 2011-2012 year. There is not sufficient time to get access to the funds.

Q. As presented to Sabin, Access cut funding support of Mr. Lamp from .5 to .25. The explanation given was that this was because Access only ever used .25 of Mr. Lamp's time.

A. Yes, it is true. However, it is also true that Access was only using Mr. Lamp .25 before and is continuing to use Mr. Lamp for .25.

Q. Trish is losing assistant Pat Aplegren, how can we assist Trish in this absence?

A. We are gaining a Para who will assist in classrooms, and with the IEPs. It would be wonderful if parents volunteered to help Trish in the office. Even (or especially) in late August.

REPORTS

Auction: Total raised approximately \$40,000. \$1,200 was raised through the raffle will go directly to the PTA. The remainder (minus the 1/3) goes to the foundation to be used for FTE. This money will not be available until next year. The principal determines how the funds are used. The principal can seek input from parents/staff.

Run for the Arts: \$8,900 raised. Some of the money raised will go to Young Audiences and some to t-shirts. Mrs. Haliburton's class raised the most: \$2,000. Mrs. Montono's class ran the most laps: 12 laps per student. Thanks to Lisa Brackbill and Gigi Cooper for all their assistance.

Community Service: \$300 will be spent. \$100 for awards. \$200 will go to Transition Project's Clark Center for homeless men to buy coffee.

Grant Cluster PTA Meeting Update: It was a very small meeting. In the latest round of budget losses Access lost .8 FTE, Sabin lost .5 FTE, Alameda lost .3 FTE. It seems the smaller schools lost more FTE. Although, Sabin is growing so it is hard to determine. Tou thinks all schools get the same funds per student.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Executive Committee for 2011-2012

Jonathan Dubay and Luci Hise-Fisher will be co-Treasurers. Amaya will assist.
Jen Holcomb for Secretary
Kristen Sheeran for Vice-President
Michael Kuebler for President

Voted in unanimously.

Committee Chairs

Communication: Mona Vij

Community Service: Gigi Cooper and Shane Thomas

Fundraising Committee Foundation: Pamela Kislak will be Chair of the Foundation.

Fundraising Committee PTA: Amaya; Pamela and Amaya will work together and share information.

Social Committee: David Fikstad

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Elona Landau

Teacher Appreciation: To Be Filled

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

It was very hard for the board to pick a volunteer of the year, because all the volunteers do SO much. The board selected Judy Berck. Rumor is that she is responsible for about 50% of the Auction donations. She managed to get an oscilloscope donated for Mr. Garcia's class. She also has run the phenomenal Community Service program at Access for years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Back-field remediation: Jonathan Dubay has noticed the deterioration of the left field. He has offered to lead a group in addressing this issue. Gigi Cooper came up with a possible Nike grant. The grant application is due June 1. Gigi will write the grant proposal.

Q. What kind of financial support will Access PTA be able to contribute?

A. Right now, we are fully committed. Also, since there is a large chance that Access will be moving, it is hard to convince people to fund a playground.

Library Request for Funds: The librarian would like to start a book group for Gifted Students. We already have funding in the budget for the library (and for the librarian) in excess of the amount requested. We are not able to provide additional funding at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Parent Meet and Greet: June 7, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please come meet our new Access families!

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.