

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by PTA President David Fikstad at 6:39.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made to submit the minutes from the May 18, 2010 meeting to the record. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Motion was made to submit minutes from the September 18, 2010 meeting to the record. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

NANCY HALLIBURTON REQUEST

Nancy Halliburton presented a request for funding for calligraphy books for the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. For several years, volunteer and Access Grandparent Inga Dubay has been teaching italic handwriting and calligraphy in grades 1st through 3rd. The volunteer time combined with classroom instruction provides the students calligraphy 3 times a week and italic handwriting once a week. The benefits of italic handwriting and calligraphy have been well documented. These skills increase memory, information retrieval, and language fluency.

Inga publishes the calligraphy books that are used in the classrooms. For years, Inga has donated the books for the classes. Inga is willing to sell Access the books for 50% off. The teachers will need a combination of books for the two 2nd/3rd grade classes.

Request: 24 books for Nancy Halliburton's class; 24 books for Dezire Clarke's class. At 50% off, the books cost approximately \$4 a book. There is also a need for calligraphy pens, which have been donated in the past. The price/brand of pen will be provided.

Q. The school normally pays for materials, how does this fall out of that?

A. When teachers need textbooks or supplies, they have been told they need to use the \$700 provided to each teacher by the PTA. No materials are provided by PPS unless they are "PPS approved." The calligraphy program is not currently a PPS approved curriculum.

Nancy Halliburton will first double check with Pat Thompson to see if the PPS TAG program will provide funding to purchase some or all of the books.

- Treasure's report regarding request for PTA funding of calligraphy books.

The total amount to purchase the requested books is \$193. Amaya previously asked Nancy Halliburton if she and Dezire Clarke would be willing to pay for the books from the \$700 allotment they are provided by PTA. It appears that that the teachers are looking for the funding outside of the \$700. Amaya has found a few categories in the budget that can be used to pay for the calligraphy books.

General discussion regarding whether to table the vote until next month when there is more information on the costs of the pens.

General feedback is in favor of supporting the calligraphy program.

Q. At times there are other funding requests from other teachers.

A. The PTA needs to be mindful of approving one request outside of the \$700 and not approving requests from other teachers.

Motion made to allocate up to \$200 toward the cost of the calligraphy books from the academic activities line item of the PTA budget to make up the difference if PPS will not provide all or any of the funding for the books. Seconded.
Approved with 1 abstention.

ISSUE OF PROVIDING FUNDING FOR SUN PROGRAM AMERI-CORPS INTERNS

During the September meeting, there was discussion regarding Access PTA contributing toward the matching cost of the Ameri-Corps interns who work with the SUN program. Amaya researched the issue of how many Access students used the SUN program last year. Exact information is hard to come by because the SUN program does not break down enrollment between Access and Sabin. Amaya was informed that last year, of the 275 students attending at least 1 SUN Class, approximately 30 to 35 students were Access students. Of those, 14 attended only 1 class (the Spring Toastmasters class). Based on this information, Amaya calculated that last year the percentage of SUN students from Access was between 6% to 13%.

It was noted that the enrollment information does not break out how many classes each student took. Amaya will further research the issue of how many class hours are occupied by Access students.

The Ameri-Corps matching fund request is \$3,000; 10% would be \$300.

Motion to table the decision of how much Access PTA will provide to fund the SUN Ameri-Corps program interns. Not seconded.

Q. How much is the Sabin PTA budget?

A. Sabin PTA budget is \$72,000; the Sabin SUN program budget is \$15,000. The total Access PTA budget is \$12,000.

Motion to contribute 6% of what Sabin PTA is contributing toward Ameri-Corps interns, which equals \$180. Seconded.
Passed with two opposing votes and two abstentions. The objecting votes are based on the fact that we are allocating money that we do not yet have in the bank.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Financial Reports provided
- Balance Sheet: the Give campaign has raised \$5,860 to date. Currently, there are 73 or 74 PTA members as opposed to 114 members at the same time last year.

The GIVE campaign is a little anemic this year. We are only at 25 to 30% participation. The goal was 60% participation at \$100 per student at Access. No contributions have been made in the past couple weeks.

General discussion and belief that additional outreach can be done to market the GIVE campaign. Flier reminders will be sent home with the students the first part of November. Another appeal will be made at the beginning of 2011, and again at the end of the school year. One of these appeals may be in the form of a personal letter sent by the Room Parents. There will also be a push to remind parents of the Paypal option.

The Social Committee has made \$160 and spent \$154. Game Night and Costume Exchange brought in money.

The Treasurer's books are in good shape. There is close to \$9,000 in the bank. There is \$12,000 of commitments in the budget.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Principal Thompson was unable to attend due to illness.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- David will compile committee reports and send out via email.
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF STANDING RULES FOR 2010-2011

Summary of the proposed changes is as follows:

- Change dues to from \$10/family to \$100/person to conform with PTA regulations regarding voting members.
- Change quorum for Executive Committee from 4 voting members to 2 voting members (50% of committee)
- Change date on which new Committee members assume duties from June 1 to Aug 1 to allow time for out-going treasurer to complete audit.
- Remove inactive committee from list of standing committee.
- Remove requirement to send delegates to State Convention (delegates may still be sent if we chose to send them).

Motion to approve changes. Seconded. Passed unanimously with 1 abstention.

UPDATE ON PLAYGROUND ISSUES

- Sacha Gilbert and Pat Thompson are working on playground issues. A task force has been set up. A report will be provided at the November meeting.

KATHY MASARIE UPDATE

- Kathy Masarie Seminar – How to Raise Your Daughters/Sons. The interested schools are Beverly Clearly, Sabin, and Access. There will be seminar one night in the spring for parents and then follow up, hopefully, by school counselors.

CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF PTA GOALS FOCUS THIS YEAR (AND BEYOND)

- David would like to see a tighter network between “Access At Grant High School” parents and Access parents. There used to be an “Access Homeroom” class at Grant. The perception is that some kids enjoyed this, while others were not in favor of the special homeroom. Grant’s new principal cut the Access Homeroom. David would like to bring the Grant Principal to Access to talk to Access parents, and maybe bring some Access at Grant parents as well.
- Elona would love to market our PTA to more Access parents! There is also a request for a staff presence at the Access PTA meetings.
- Discussion regarding having parent education speakers at PTA meetings. Various ideas for relevant speakers. The speakers would speak before the meetings or for a period during the meeting.
- Another idea is to encourage participation at PTA meetings is to invite specific classes and teachers to certain meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

- T-shirts and sweatshirts
 - A few vendors have been lined up. Question: how many color choices for the spirit wear? The Access Student Council will be asked to make a motion regarding color choice.

- In prior years, the shirts/sweat shirts were an 80/20 cotton blend. The vendor is arguing for a 50/50 blend. General consensus is the more cotton the better. This has not been a fundraiser in the past. David will investigate using Café Press.
- December Craft Fair : Lise Brackbill and Camela Hicks will be putting on a craft fair in December. The students will not participate in this craft fair. Access parents and other artisans will make and sell crafts, and volunteers will lead the children in craft projects. 20% or more of the proceeds from the crafters will go to PTA. Camela is trying to also get script that will be sold in November or at the event. She is estimating that \$1,500 profit from the sale of script. 100% of the proceeds from the calendars by Mr. Lamp will go back to his program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Vampire Ball: Friday, October 29. Volunteers are needed.
- Wild Arts Festival: November 20-21 in Montgomery Park in NW Portland. Volunteers are needed. Access/Sabin is one of only 2 schools that were invited to participate rather than being required to go through a vetting process.
- Highlights from Grant Cluster PIA Meeting -- (1) The cluster is starting a monthly coffee of PIA representatives. (2) If we have trouble finding an Audit Committee, there is an "audit swap" night. (3) Grant is trying to get a new sports field. Grant would like to raise funds from our community for this