

ACCESS Academy
PTA Meeting Notes
7PM PT – Nov 13, 2008

In Attendance

PTA Board: Kim Grimme, Sara Rice, Kaarin Smith
JaneAnne Peterson, Sacha Gilbert, John Pospisil, Debra Clemans, Margaret Zheng, Jonathan
Dubay, Tom Sumner, Lisa Jensen, Mona Vuj, Sue Long, Birgit Koehler, Kristine Shmakov,
Laura Mundorff, Philip Graham, Megan Porter, Valerie Vogel, Judy Berck, Gail Shaloum

Call to order

-Called to order 7:02PM

Secretary's Report

Meeting notes are posted (posted on PTA board and on Bigtents) -

- **Motion: To approve the meetings notes from 10/16**
 - ✓ Motion passed

Treasurers Report

- \$17,800 in the bank

- Still outstanding: laminator \$250-\$1K (Film would come from school budget)

- How much should we allow?

- \$500 PTA donation from Amy Welch specifically for laminator

- **Motion to purchase the \$1350 laminator (w/\$500 from Amy)**
 - ✓ Motion passed

- Priority was to get teacher's requests first which have been met, and do have money left over for technology bundles

- Ms. Morgan and Ms. Montano will get bundles from the district

- Still have several teachers who need bundles

- Goal for fundraising is 100% participation from families - 68 families have donated

- Scrip and eScrip: every time you shop (Safeway, Albertsons, Eddie Bauer) will give money back to ACCESS

- post information about these on BigTent

- Scrip is a lot of work (need dedicated volunteer)

- Chinook Book: still available for \$20 - ACCESS gets \$10 (need your child's name and classroom)

- National Spelling Bee fund raiser: school gets 100% of money (pledge-style fund raiser)

Bookfair

- Nice social-aspect
- Powell's does this same type of fund raiser
- JaneAnne to investigate Powell's bookfair option
- Liked having at start of year so teachers got their books at the start of the year

Communication

- Three areas to focus on:
 - Folder section has all files (.pdf of directory, budget, PTA notes)
 - Picture section (field trip, Halloween, bookfair)
 - Members section (active directory) - will post info on how to update your record (student name/grade)
- Bragging Forum: post different student accomplishments. Would serve as 'talking points' about our program
- Community service dates are on the general calendar now
- Communications group will post instructions on how to drill down into a sub group

Principal's Report

- Should have confirmation of parent/teacher conferences date/time
 - if you didn't get one from your student, please ask them for the yellow form
- Question: What news do you have on next year?
 - District is working on it location
 - Mark feels like the program still has room to grow - and the district realizes this
 - Want to make a decision earlier in the year than was made last year
 - Hopefully we'll hear by end of January about where we'll be next year
 - District is likely to 'tell' us where we'll be, not 'ask' us where we'd like to be
 - Hoping for something relatively permanent
 - Interesting to see how many new students will be identified with the Grade 2 testing
 - Title I students are tested this year - other schools will be tested starting next year
- Spirit Day Friday: ask your students to wear their shirts!!
- Thanks to Mark for purchasing shirts from budget
- Looking to have some sweatshirts for purchase in the future
- School folders: looking at buying thru the school printing press

New Business

1. Question: what are we doing to commemorate MLK holiday+ Inauguration.
 - What is Sabin doing?
 - Can we coordinate w/them?
2. Spelling Bee: 2 spelling bees coming up (oral and written)
 - will likely ask for prize money
 - need parent volunteers
3. Community Service Student Leadership: ~25 students
 - Whatever students do in class, it will count towards Student Leadership hours
4. Need a better way to track parent volunteers / volunteer opportunities
 - looking to find a better way to track on BigTents
5. Transportation: what is going on with transportation issues
 - NW families looking into a bus
 - Hitcher program - can hitch ride on an existing bus // ride
 - No district plan is in place to assist here
 - Currently the 'plan' is to carpool
 - Sacha has spoken to School board staff
 - Head of legal affairs are researching how OR admin rules differ from PDX public schools transportation
 - Waiting to hear back on a potential solution on 'hitcher' program
 - Concerned about being able to offer transportation to all families so that the availability is equal to all families
6. Garden Committee: Thank you to Ms. Clarke and Ms. Egan's class
 - Installed bricks and completed the pathways
7. FCI: Assessing all schools for repairs/seismic updates: a lot of pri 1 fixes for Sabin, any information?
 - Mark doesn't have info on this
 - Information likely went to Mr. Shaver
8. Choir: new tradition for choir over to Loaves and Fishes
 - Propose having performance on 12/01 ~ 12:20PM
 - Loaves and Fishes asks us to decorate placemats
 - Bring in families for whole-service day (decorating for holiday season)
 - Open doors at 9AM
 - Can stay and play dominos and scrabble
 - Can we open this up to parents/students who want to have individual performances
 - Sacha will pull together in a flyer and post to BigTents
 - If interested in helping: email Sacha

9. Coats and backpacks / Storage

- Mr. Shaver has ok'd the use of the lockers outside of Halliburton's lockers
- Upper grades who are moving around - need to be able to access throughout the day
- Lower grades need to have a place to hang coats w/in the classroom
- No space for coat hooks in the 4 homeroom classrooms
- Potential cubby space in some rooms
- Mark requesting that issues like this come through him
- General consensus is that the kids need a more central place to put bags/coats

10. Transfer to highschool process: ACCESS at Grant

- Forming a subgroup on BigTents for 7-8 grade families
- Trying to involve parents of kids in ACCESS at Grant
- Would like to use subgroup a place to provide them a place to communicate among one another, but would serve dual purpose as information for our families
- "ACCESS at Grant Informational Evening" - possibly in the spring (include parents/teachers/administration)
- Keep track on alumni to see how our credits transfer into other schools besides Grant (OES, Jesuit, Lincoln, etc...)

Action Items

- **Birgit: write eScrip instructions for posting on BigTent - send to Liz Adams
- **JaneAnne: Look into Powell's book fair - availability / what the store can offer
- **Mark: Look into:
 - FCI seismic information
 - MLK celebration and ACCESS coordination w/Sabin
 - Lockers/cubby discussion w/teachers

Next meeting date(s) and time(s)

- 12/11 8:45AM
- 01/08 8:45AM

Meeting adjourned: 8:33PM