

ACCESS PTA meeting minutes

Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 8:45 to 10:15 a.m.

Sabin library

Attendees: Kim Grimme, Liz Adams, Kaarin Smith, Sacha Gilbert-Waggoner, Rita Cheng, Steven Alexander, Beccy Tyler, Lise Brackbill, Mark Sandilands

Call to order 8:48 a.m.

Liz Adams is taking minutes for Sara Rice

Motion to approve November's meeting minutes- Motion approved.

Principal's report, Mark Sandilands

- 1) Update on questions from November meeting regarding facilities report that went out in 2007. The report rated building issues in the district, A report went out to all Principals in November that included a spreadsheet detailing long and short-term work needed to rebuild and renovate schools. Staff can look up their school on the spreadsheet to see what needs to be improved and updated. The information can be shared with all parents at principal's discretion. Mark will be sending that information out to parent's at a later date after he has a chance to review the information himself. Many of the schools in PPS are in need of repairs. There is a PPS facilities page that may have more information.
- 2) MLK Jr celebration with Sabin. It looks like ACCESS will be participating with Sabin to celebrate MLK Jr Day. Mark has met with principal of Sabin and will be planning the day's events with staff.
- 3) ACCESS location for 2009-10 school year The district is looking at facilities district-wide and are actively working on where to locate the school next year. The capacity at Sabin and ACCESS is full. Mark believes they are looking at buildings that have room versus those that are vacant. Nothing is official to date. As far as specific schools on the lists there is no information available. The district has communicated to Mark that they would like to have the decision made by January 2009.

From Kim Grimme: Once the choice of a school is made the push for transportation options can be made further.

Mark: Expressed that he is a proponent for transportation and that the location we go to has to have more of a bus program that will provide for the many areas in the city our students come from.

From Sacha Waggoner: Has there been any thought to have a vision committee formed to talk about how the new site and how the move compare and meet the overall goal of ACCESS?

Group in general: Discussed that in 2006-07 parents were chosen to be on committees to help shape and review the report on future recommendations that included the program's needs in a site. Where is the report now?

How do we best position ourselves to make an impact on the vision of the school once we move? Is our best strategy to wait until the location choice is made and then work toward making sure the facility and resources align with the programs current needs and relative goals for the next school year?

- 4) District-wide TAG testing Mark is working with the TAG department in regards to the district-wide testing of second graders and will be contacting parents who's children score in the 99% percentile about the ACCESS program. The first phase of testing is in Title I schools.

Treasurer's report

Kaarin Smith: Financial activity for November was distributed, but has not been reconciled yet. At the last PTA meeting we approved purchasing a laminator for the school, teachers and secretary. All reports is that it is well utilized and well loved. Laminator ws paid in part by a generous donation from Amy Welch.

\$1,919 dollars went out last month, \$14,620 is in bank. A fundraising letter was sent out to the remaining 66 families that have not participated in the Donate Once fundraiser. The PTA board is seeking 100% participation from the 150 families in Sabin. Teachers really appreciate the fact they can get funds immediately to fulfill supplies. Thank you notes from teachers come in regularly.

Communication report

Liz Adams: There has not been much news to post on the BigTent site and most of the site's relevance relies on the participation of parents themselves with posting forums and providing events.

Group in general: Are there ways to help teachers use the internet to post items like homework? Is it possible to have teachers trained to use a web site to post classroom information? What are PPS internet policies for teacher websites and training can parents provide that?

New business

A teacher work day is scheduled for Friday, January 30, it is a 'no school that day'. An idea was presented to have parent volunteers that day to help teachers organize, clean, put up bookshelves, etc. Perhaps there can be a movie in the auditorium or older students can provide an activity for the younger students that day. Kim will talk to Mark about the feasibility for that to happen and if it is something the teachers would like to have happen.

No trash day at school? Can ACCESS partner with Sabin for a no-waste day to happen on the school grounds? Metro has free waste-reduction programs to offer and may have a curriculum available for teachers to use that day. This idea needs a parent volunteer to coordinate and present the idea to staff and administrators at the school.

Historian- A parent volunteer is also needed to look at beginning to gather and maintain alumni information that can benefit the entire community. A historian helps keep a database of students and do an informal survey process to guide development of programs and address issues that older students encounter.

Sweatshirts and ACCESS apparel for sale? There has been some ideas regarding providing sweatshirts and other merchandise with the ACCESS Academy wordmark and atom. Websites such as Café Press and Zazzle allow merchandise to be made on an on-demand print method so large quantities do not need to be manufactured and orders can be placed by individuals for a variety of items. This prevents overhead costs and time to be added to the idea of providing merchandise but also prevents the merchandise from having a fundraising element. Another idea was presented to have junior high students organize this as an economics project in homeroom? This also needs a parent volunteer to coordinate.

Intel has computers for sale- do we have money in the budget to purchase some for the school?

Grant writing volunteers are still needed.