

## ACCESS Academy PTA

### Minutes of General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 13, 2016, at 7 p.m. in the lunchroom, Rose City Park School, 2334 NE 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon

**Meeting called to order by** President Jennifer Ellis at 7:03 p.m.

**Attendance:** 21 people signed the attendance list; of these, at least 9 were members for 2016-17. 6 members constitute a quorum for a General Membership Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of 5/11/16 General Membership Meeting, which were available for review, were accepted.

#### Officers' Reports

President Jennifer Ellis reviewed for the membership the purpose of the ACCESS Academy PTA and its relationship to the Oregon and national PTAs. She explained the differing goals and responsibilities of the PTA, the ACCESS Foundation, and the ACCESS Site Council.

President Jennifer Ellis presented the Annual Report for the 2015 Financial Year, dated 7/8/16, which had been submitted by former Treasurer Abbie L. Rankin. Copies of the report were available for review.

President Jennifer Ellis reviewed two Audit Checklists for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year, each dated 7/27/16, which had been submitted by Luci Hise-Fisher and Tanya Schaefer. One of the auditors was present and stated that her audit indicated that proper procedures were followed. Copies of the Checklists were available for review.

#### Other Presentations

Presentations were given by (1) Dick Roy of Portland Eco-School Network; (2) Kevin McHargue (Oregon PTA Vice President for Legislation) on the "Yes on Measure 97" campaign; and (3) Principal David Wood with announcements and updates. Notes on these presentations appear in an addendum.

#### Old Business

Co-secretary Gilbert Neiger gave a presentation on proposed changes to the Standing Rules for the ACCESS Academy PTA. Copies of the current Standing Rules and proposed new Standing Rules were available for review. There was a motion from the floor to approve the proposed new Standing Rules, and this was seconded. The motion was approved with no opposition. The new Standing Rules were adopted.

President Jennifer Ellis introduced and explained a proposal to change the authorized signers on the ACCESS Academy PTA business checking account with Bank of America. The current signers were Heather Kent (former President), Abbie Rankin

(former Treasurer), and Bob Kelly. The proposal is to remove those signers and replace them with Jennifer Ellis (President), Colin Cunningham (Treasurer), Catherine Beckett (Vice President), and Clint Chiavarini (Vice President). There was a motion from the floor to approve the proposed new authorized signers on the ACCESS Academy PTA business checking account with Bank of America, and this was seconded. The motion was approved with no opposition. The new authorized signers on the ACCESS Academy PTA business checking account with Bank of America were approved.

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After presentation of the Annual Report for the 2015 Financial Year and the Audit Checklists for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year (see Officers' Reports above), there was a motion from the floor to approve the Annual Report for the 2015 Financial Year and the Audit Checklists, and this was seconded. The motion was approved with no opposition. The Annual Report for the 2015 Financial Year and the Audit Checklists were approved.

President Jennifer Ellis presented a proposed Budget for the 2016 Financial Year. Copies of the proposed Budget were available for review. Following discussion of the Budget, there was a motion from the floor to approve the Budget as presented, and this was seconded. The motion was approved with no opposition. The Budget for the 2016 Financial Year was approved.

#### **New Business**

None.

**Next General Membership Meeting is 10/11/16 at 7 p.m. at Rose City Park School**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.**

**Minutes compiled by Gilbert Neiger, Secretary**



\* Authorized signers changed, per motion, on September 29, 2016 at Hollywood branch of B of A. - L. KARPLUS, Co-Secretary

## **ACCESS Academy PTA Notes from General Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

### **Other Presentations**

Presentations were given by (1) Dick Roy of Portland Eco-School Network; (2) Kevin McHargue (Oregon PTA Vice President for Legislation) on the “Yes on Measure 97” campaign; and (3) Principal David Wood with announcements and updates.

#### (1) Dick Roy of Portland Eco-School Network

Jeanne and Dick Roy are Founders of Center for Earth Leadership and have been working on sustainability for 23 years.

The Portland Eco-School Network, a project of the Center, is a network of parents working on sustainability efforts in their respective Portland Metro elementary schools. Currently, there are about 40 parents currently active in about 30 schools.

A mission of the Network is to encourage and support parents who are taking steps to help “green” their schools, in conjunction with teachers and principal. Network members undertake projects that vary quite a bit from school to school. Some form “student green teams”; some work in school gardens or for waste reduction; other promoting walk-to-school and bike-to-school campaigns. As an example, the wind turbine in use at the Skyline School resulted from the initiative of a local Eco-School parent. The Rieke Elementary School became the first Green Flag School in Oregon as a result of efforts organized by an Eco-School parent there.

The Network supports parents by providing sources of information at its website, <http://earthleaders.org/eco-schools/portland-network/>. The Network has been active for 8 years and has resources (e.g., plans available online) to support a variety of projects such as field trips, Halloween costume exchanges, etc.

Interested parents are invited to attend dessert meet-ups in homes of involved parents. There will be four such meetings, at which parents will talk about the benefits of network involvement. A sign-up sheet with some additional information was passed around. Meet-ups will be held at the end of the month and offer a chance to learn about participating.

#### (2) Kevin McHargue, Oregon PTA Vice President for Legislation

Kevin introduced himself as a liaison from Oregon PTA, speaking about the campaign for Measure 97.

Kevin reported that 300 small businesses in Oregon are in the coalition supporting the measure. Oregon ranks last among states in corporate taxes, while having the 3rd largest class size and the 4th lowest graduation rate. Many other state-wide needs go unserved because of lack of revenue at the state level.

Measure 97 will hold corporations accountable. It would affect only C corporations and would raise taxes only on Oregon sales in excess of \$25 million.

It is expected that opposition will misrepresent the potential impact of the measure (e.g., by claiming that jobs will be lost).

Kevin gave some personal testimonials based on his family's participation in public education.

Kevin asked that members of the ACCESS Academy PTA support the campaign by voting for the measure, talking to neighbors, doing canvassing, etc. He passed around a sign-up sheet for those who want to be involved, and he also provided lawn signs, bumper stickers, etc. for those who were interested.

A parent said that there were complaints that there is no formula or guarantee for how funds raised will be used. What about schools? Kevin responded that the measure states that funds raised must go to health care and education.

A parent asked how funds allocation would be determined — by the state Department of Education or by local school districts. Kevin responded that both would be involved.

A parent asked if there were a risk that, if the measure were passed, already budgeted amounts for education would be reduced by the amount raised by the measure. Kevin responded that members of the legislature risk non-re-election if they do not increase allocation to education and health care appropriately.

A parent asked whether the new taxes would be graduated. Kevin responded that each company's new tax would be 2.5% on the amount of its Oregon sales above \$25 million.

### (3) Announcements and Updates from Principal David Wood

Mr. Wood began by reporting some staffing updates:

- Leah Mocsy will be teaching the blended first and second grades. It is hoped that the grades will be unblended after a move to a new building.
- Stephanie Millis will be teaching the third grade (Ms. Clarke had moved unexpectedly to Washington State). Third grade is again the primary entry point to the school for new students.
- Leslie Eisen, who joined from Sellwood Middle School, will be teaching middle-school social studies half-time, as well as sixth-grade language arts.
- Kyra Routon is the new speech and language pathologist.
- The time of the school counselor (Devin Harkness) has been prioritized to focus on students in the first, second, and third grades. This will continue through the first quarter.
- Thanks to contributions from the ACCESS Academy Foundation (principally raised at the annual auction), there is now staffing sufficient to offer technology classes to all middle-school students (sixth through eighth grades) and to offer leadership classes to all eighth graders for the entire year.

- Beginning very soon, Kristin Moar (the secretary for Beverly Cleary School at Rose City Park) will serve as “front desk person” for both schools in the building. This is because ACCESS Academy is one of few K-8/1-8 programs in PPS with only one secretary. This change will allow Trish Hendry, the secretary for ACCESS Academy, to focus more on principal support.

The following are key points regarding the school budget:

- The consolidated budget allocated by PPS this year is more limited than in the past and, as a result, the school will be relying more than ever on the PTA.
- The TAG-specific budget is allocated per-school and not per-student. The district has removed the budgetary flexibility that, in the past, allowed funds to be shifted between purchasing goods and paying staff. For example, Mr. Wood functions as the school’s TAG Facilitator. In the past, funds allocated for the TAG Facilitator could be reallocated for purchasing. This is no longer the case.
- Funds from the consolidated budget are used for many curricular materials that are not part of district adoption. The nature of the curriculum at ACCESS Academy requires substantially greater purchases for such materials than at other schools.
- For this year, Mr. Wood is apprehensive about allocating too much money for discretionary use because unused funds may be reclaimed by the school district rather than being rolled over in the school budget. (This year, the school district took back about 1/3 of the funds that might have been rolled over.) Because this year’s consolidated budget is less than anticipated, Mr. Wood expects that he may need to decline more requests for discretionary funds.

A complaint has been filed about admission process for ACCESS Academy. The school district will be providing a formal response to complainants, expected on 14 September. Given that the complaint focused on special needs, Mr. Wood observed that the proportion of ACCESS students with such needs is the highest that it has been in last 3 years, and that it exceeds the district average. It is likely that changes will be made to enhance the admissions process.

Also related to admissions, Mr. Wood observed that the waiting list for admission to the school is larger than he would like it to be. He said that he would be providing more clarity and direction in the future.

Regarding school location, it is still unclear if and when the school will be moving. Last year, there was proposal to move to the Humboldt School on Gantenbein Avenue. It is not clear whether the school board and the District-wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee (DBRAC) have capacity to implement the changes that have been proposed. The school will continue to plan for a move to Humboldt but will for now limit the effort spent on concrete planning.

There is a PPS committee reviewing all focus and alternative options (including ACCESS Academy) to make recommendations on capacity, size, and grade configurations. There will probably be a recommendation on ACCESS at end of September or in early October focusing on growth and other issues.