

Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2015

6:30-8:30

Attendees (as listed on sign-in sheets): Tasha Irvine, , Casey Sommers, Katie May, Lauri Nakamoto, Jennifer de la Cruz, Cliff Meyer, Jen Ellis, Laura Peterson, Greg Melhuish, Jocelyn Lear, Percy Allen, Molly Harris, Stacey Joanavic, Angie Jenkins, Anne Porter, Glenn Fleishman, Anne Piazza, Margaret Montsaroff, Bill Brewster, Frank Lawler, Dana Armstrong, Katie Egolf, Carolyn Pugh, Lynn Warner, Mellissa S. Torres, Pooja Kamathia, Jenny Ott, James Fackler, Tamara Mildner, Patty Pearson, Sara Ullman

Welcome & Upcoming Calendar -- Casey Sommers & Tasha Irvine, Co-Presidents

Tasha welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the upcoming calendar of important dates listed at the bottom of the agenda (see attached). She highlighted Principal May's Monday, March 9 coffee chat with Kathleen Vasquez, SPS Program Manager on testing. Tasha also noted the addition of two events to the calendar: 1) Thursday, March 12th math night for the entire school and 2) Thurgood Marshall at Seattle Storm game on the evening of Saturday, June 6th.

Tasha explained the process for ensuring a strong PTA Board for next school year. It begins with a nominating committee to put together recommendations for volunteers for the open board seats. The open positions for next year include co-president, vice president, treasurer, fundraising co-chair, Tutu pantry co-chair, events chair, and pup press editor. We will vote on these positions and the budget at our May general meeting. Look in the Pup Press for more information on how you can participate.

We approved the minutes from the November meeting.

School Report -- Katie May, Principal

Katie began by noting the great turnout and overall experience for multicultural night on the 13th. She highlighted two upcoming events focused on math. There will be a fun, all-school math night on Thursday, March 12th. There will also be a middle school math information night for current 5th grade parents on March 25th to learn more about the math program at WMS. In other school news, Katie updated us on the open assistant principal position. The district will post the job in mid-march, so we'll be interviewing candidates in late March/early April. Our enrollment this year is 520 and is projected to go up to 558 for next year. We expect that will mean two additional portables to accommodate two additional classrooms. Katie is in discussions with the district regarding placement of these portables. We are also hiring a technology consultant (paid for by the PTA) to help with our technology readiness profile.

Last week, Katie went to Columbia University for official training in readers/writers workshop. It was a fantastic experience, and she is looking into funding for teachers to go there for reading training in the future.

This week we've been doing practice tests for the smarter balanced assessments. This practice helps ensure the technology is in place and it gives the kids a chance to be more familiar with this type of test. Katie has created a sample test schedule for this spring which will be published in the near future. She encouraged everyone to avoid scheduling appointments, vacations, etc. during these times. Katie also encouraged everyone to attend her next coffee chat to learn more about the smarter balanced tests and ask any questions they may have.

Guest Speaker - Jody McVittie, Sound Discipline

Casey introduced Dr. Jody McVittie. Jody is the founder of Sound Discipline and has been working with the staff at TM for almost six years. Jody led the group in an interactive discussion of Positive Discipline philosophy and techniques. Please refer to attached Parenting with Courage and Connection handout for details.

Meeting was adjourned.