

Thurgood Marshall PTA, Board Meeting Minutes

March 03, 2015, 6:30-8:30pm

In Attendance: Daphne Dejanikus, Scott Engan, Jen Ellis, Tasha Irvine, Stacey Joanovic, Ben Kim, Cliff Meyer, Lauri Nakamoto, Jenny Ott, Annette Sherr, Casey Sommers, Katie May
Guests: Jamie Fackler (Bingo Night Chair), Jim Dunnigan (Technology Consultant)

Technology Conversation -- Jim Dunnigan (Technology Consultant)

Jim briefly outlined his background as a teacher and as a technology consultant for different schools, including his current work with Washington Middle School. He has met with Katie May already, and plans to be here all day Thursday with the staff. He plans to listen, see what's working, discuss staff goals and which PD/tools they might need/want. He will also assess the technology we already have and help define the "big picture" for technology at TM. He came tonight to listen to parents and get their feedback on technology. Topics raised by the Board included: what technology should kids be proficient at what age, use of "skills-based" technology (e.g. spreadsheet program to graph data), using technology to spur creativity, how technology can support unmet student needs, having consistency throughout programs and between teachers, and special ed and peace academy use of applications. Jim plans to have another meeting to gather more input from TM parents.

The Board took a group photograph.

Events Updates – Tasha and Jamie

Bingo Night – Jamie asked a number of questions regarding previous Bingo Nights, including supplies, prizes, and timing.

Spring Art Showcase planning – As a follow-up to a February Board meeting conversation, we plan to have a Spring Arts Showcase week from May 20th-May 28th. It will coincide with the band concert on May 21 and the choir concert on May 28th.

5th grade promotion -- We've found 4th grade parent leads so this event is on track.

Teacher Appreciation – We have a lead. Jenny will send her information from last year to new lead.

Art Committee (Daphne- Arts Team Liaison)

Daphne is doing a survey with each teacher to document all the art that happens in their classroom that isn't PCP; Katie May is helping with list of school projects/trips, etc. Board had a discussion about the arts showcase week and how to incorporate all the other arts (drama, dance, etc.) as part of the concert experience. Lastly, we had a brief discussion of Daphne's role, vis a vis the Board, since this is a new position.

Principal's Update – Katie May

Katie has been working with the BLT on the school budget for next year. She has her allocation from the district and her first meeting tomorrow with the district. She will have two weeks to submit the final budget to the district, and she will work with the PTA Board to figure out how to fill budget shortfalls.

The SBAC testing schedule should be posted shortly for all classes.

We will be getting a Senior Americorps volunteer to help out as a literacy tutor part time.

We now have control over the TM Facebook page, co-owned by Katie and the PTA.

We have scheduled our Move-a-thon for May 29th, with a kick-off at the May 22nd assembly.

The funds raised will be used to support field trips (as in years past).

Communications Update – Cliff

Cliff led a discussion regarding switching to a new email provider. The Board discussed the pros and cons (including some additional costs) but we agreed that we should do it before the summer. Cliff will look into it and migrate.

We had another discussion regarding the size of the outdoor bulleting board sign on the fence by the flag pole. We plan to have space for letter messages with event flyers below the letters. We still need to check with self-help for approval. Ben and Cliff will look into different pre-made options.

Co-Presidents Update – Tasha and Casey

We need more people to be on the nominating committee for next year's board.

The Bullpup Parents Group will be meeting in March without the PTA.

Tasha and Casey met with Cassandra Johnston regarding the Tutoring Coalition. We liked the Logan Square Tutoring program to help build a community of trained volunteers. Casey and Tasha will continue to pursue this option.

SBAC/Common Core -- As testing happens, let's be sure to have information available for parents on the PTA website and in the Pup Press.

Administrative Assistants Day is April 22nd. Tasha will buy lunch for Hazel and Brenda.

This Thursday is the last tour before May. We need another guide -- Lauri will do it.

The Board approved the February meeting minutes.

Annual Giving Fund Update – Jenny Ott and Stacey Joanovic

We have \$28,400 to raise and one more match available. Are you ready for March Matchness? This will be our theme for the last big push. We have a flyer ready to go and a giveaway of 4 tickets to the Seattle Storm TM opening night event.

Meeting adjourned.