

Thurgood Marshall PTA, Board Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2015, 6:30-8:30pm

In Attendance: Donna Dugan, Daniella D'Louhy, Scott Engan, Jen Ellis, Jamie Fackler, Tasha Irvine, Stacey Joanovic, Ben Kim, Cliff Meyer, Lauri Nakamoto, Jenny Ott, Annette Sherr, Maggie Trapp, Brindy Bundesmann (by phone), Katie May

The Board took a group photograph to celebrate reaching the Annual Giving Fund goal.

Co-Presidents Update – Tasha

The Board approved the March 2015 minutes.

Bulletin Board Update -- Ben is looking into a double-sided design; The PTA discussed the need to keep within a smaller budget, given the current draft budget shortfall. Ben will follow-up with Self Help regarding putting a bulletin board near the fence.

Bull-Pups Group Update: CPPS is going to arrange another dessert potluck on April 29th to try to figure out the direction of the group going forward.

PTA Survey -- At the May meeting we'll decide if we'll do a parent survey this year or not and what it might cover. Historically, we do it every other year or so. There was a brief discussion about perhaps doing a more focused fundraising survey this year.

Principal's Update – Katie May

Technology Initiative Update: Jim Dunnigan has finished his readiness profile. He met with nearly every staff member and determined the usage for our computer lab and Ipad carts. Katie and Jim are working on draft recommendations, which they will present at the next principal coffee on April 30th. Main recommendations: More effective Ipad usage (e.g. K/1 Ipad use); Purchasing a laptop cart (30 laptops) for older kids (to be able to save work after using), and an emphasis on Professional Development for teachers. Jim is still working through all this with Katie, along with looking at a TM technology philosophy and vision. We started SBAC testing this week and it's going smoothly so far.

We are getting a double portable to meet the increased capacity needs for next year and it will be near the current portable.

Budget-wise: 13 teachers are going to the Columbia University literacy program this summer and we need PTA support for this to occur. The staff and administration also want PTA funding for literacy support for the younger grades. This would consist of tutors that would each provide 17 hours of tutoring per week and 2 hours of recess duty.

Budget Review – Tasha and Brindy

The Board reviewed the draft budget for next year prepared by Brindy and the budget committee (see attached handout). A motion was made, voted on, and approved to reallocate *this year's* remaining opportunity grants funds to help pay for the literacy

conference mentioned above in the Principal's Update. We discussed many of the changes between this year's budget and the budget proposed for next year, along with the reasoning for these changes. We noted the shortfall of ~\$32K, which would lead to a deficit of \$15.7K in our carryover (i.e. we would not meet our reserve requirement.) The big new items are the teacher PD literacy conference with an expense of \$7K for next year, the classroom tutors/recess aides at \$20K (\$10,500 more than this year) and any potential technology requests coming out of the Technology Initiative. We discussed the need to try to find grant money for any potential technology expenses given our budget situation. The Board had a lengthy discussion around different budget items and potential ways to increase our income. The current Board recommendation is to move to a balanced budget, minus special one-time expenses. To do this, we would increase the Annual Giving Fund goal to \$160K, up from \$130K this year. We also plan to raise the Other Net Income goal to \$10K (up from \$7K), with an expectation of increased promotion for the Amazon program and other side programs. The Board did not reduce any of the current planned budget expenses, believing that we could balance the budget through increased fundraising. Brindy will update the Budget and send it out for email vote from the Board.

Annual Giving Fund Update – Jenny Ott and Stacey Joanovic

Give Big strategy – The Board discussed whether to use the Technology Initiative or the teacher's planned literacy conference PD as the draw for the Give Big messaging this year. The Board decided to use the teacher PD literacy, as it was more concrete at this time and Jenny felt there was a good story that could be told.

Jenny and Stacey also announced that we reached our fundraising goal for this year with \$114K from parents and friends and family and \$18K from corporate matching. In previous years, there has been more corporate match dollars, but that is out of our control based on demographics/job changes. The Match pools were very successful this year and Jenny thinks they could be bigger next year as we increase our goal.

Opt-out Discussion – Jen Ellis

The Board had a quick discussion about how we can try to facilitate more information being shared throughout the community, as Jen presented some data regarding how other PTAs try to disseminate and promote discussions among their community members. Some of the issues discussed included endorsements versus objectivity. At this time, the PTA is not taking a position on SBAC opt-out. Agree that we should put community information on the agenda for next month's meeting.

2015-2016 PTA Board Nominations - Tasha

There are still a number of open board positions for next year. Please send all ideas to Tasha or Casey.

Meeting adjourned.