

Thurgood Marshall PTA, Board Meeting/Retreat Minutes

August 9, 2015, 2-5pm

In Attendance: Heather Bauer, Jen Ellis, Brenda Fackler, Jamie Fackler, Stacey Joanovic, Ben Kim, Cliff Meyer, Lauri Nakamoto, Karen Pinkard, Casey Sommers, Katie May, Laurie Kazanjian, Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie

Principal Report -- Katie May

The meeting began with an update from Principal May.

Staffing: TM is fully staffed now with the hiring of two kindergarten teachers and a resource room teacher. We also have an Assistant Principal, Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie, and a Principal Intern, Lauri Kazanjian. We are in the process of hiring literacy tutors; we have two and we still need two more. We have been interviewing for the three open IA spots.

PD: The teacher's college program has been great -- all twelve of our teachers got in. They are all very excited and enthused about reading instruction. The school has decided to purchase a more in-depth reading curriculum for the whole school at a cost of roughly \$4K. Jim Dunnigan will be doing some technology training as part of our In-service this year, primarily working with K-2 teachers on blended learning.

Portable update: The new portable is supposed to be placed on August 12th. Given our drop in expected enrollment, one side will be open this year, but we expect to fill it in subsequent years.

Enrollment: We are stable at 24 classes for 523 students.

Summer programs: Summer school has started. Our Jump Start program begins in a few weeks and we're working hard to reach all the Kindergarten families so they participate.

School-wide Theme: Last year we had "Building Bridges" as our overarching theme. This year, (im)balance will be our theme. We will be focusing on balance and imbalance and where on this continuum real growth occurs. We will also be studying the book Blind Spot by Anthony Greenwald and Mahzarin Banaji which explores our implicit bias.

Co-Presidents Report (Casey/Jamie)

Miscellaneous items:

- A few of us called every new family over the summer to welcome them to TM and answer any questions they had. We were also able to get contact information for many families.
- There will be an art installation ceremony on August 13th at 12:15pm.
- An opportunity grant has been submitted by Donna Dugan for bulletin boards around the school. Jamie will send out the grant via email for discussion and vote.

Calendar: The Board briefly reviewed the calendar of back-to-school events and volunteer requirements. We had a brief discussion about the best way to garner volunteer sign-ups and foster connections between parents. We will make sure to have the volunteer forms at the ice cream social, and also plan to use different colored pens to help identify new parents at the first day tea.

Volunteer update: The Volunteer Chair position is still open, but we have a good lead.

Bulletin board update: It will likely not be installed until the school year starts, but Ben is continuing to push forward.

Minutes: Jamie made a motion to approve the June minutes and Jen Ellis seconded it. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Reflection Activity and Goals for the 2015-16 School Year -- Brenda

The board spent forty-five minutes reflecting on our three areas of emphasis:

Supporting Student Learning

Supporting Enrichment

Building Community

For each area, we listed and discussed how we supported each goal last year and what we learned from those experiences. (See attached document for detailed lists.)

We plan to build on this discussion at the September and October board meetings as we set our goals for the upcoming year.

Annual Giving Fund Discussion -- Casey

The Board spent forty-five minutes talking about the upcoming fundraising year. We reviewed last year's fundraising summary (see attached document) and discussed potential timelines and messaging. Recommendations that came out of the discussion included: 1) Have two big ask periods this year instead of three, 2) Send out a fundraising timeline early in the year so families know what to expect, 3) Include a specific dollar amount as part of the ask (derived from total expenses/total students). We also had a short discussion about the likely additional expense of a laptop cart for the 3-5 grade classrooms and how we can jumpstart the grant process.

Meeting adjourned.