

Thurgood Marshall PTA, Board Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2015, 6:30-8:15pm

In Attendance: Kimberlee Barber-Woodruff, Heather Bauer, Donna Dugan, Jen Ellis, Jamie Fackler, Stacey Joanovic, Ben Kim, Cliff Meyer, Lauri Nakamoto, Karen Pinkard, Casey Sommers, Annette Sherr, Katie May, Laurie Kazanjian, Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie

Peace Academy Report -- Donna

All four teachers are returning from last year. We hired two new IAs and a new resource room person. Our capacity is 24 students, and we currently have 19. Since the teachers' contract is up for negotiation, things may change dramatically.

Principal Report -- Katie May

TM has 3 main goals this year: equity and building relationships, academics and arts.

- 1) Equity and building relationships: (im)balance is our motto as we think in new ways, are challenged, and put ourselves in a good learning environment. We will also use RULER, a program designed to help us understand and regulate our feelings.
- 2) Academics: We will focus more on reading this year. Teacher professional development is focused on literacy and using new formative assessments. We plan to learn from data on every student. In math we are focused on the most essential standards and assessing appropriately. We will stress rigor in every program in every classroom.
- 3) Arts: We have an Arts team (including an arts liaison) and a vision for our school. We strive for a mix of arts, cultures, and movement. An ArtsCorp PD training session will take place on Monday for our teachers.

Hiring: We have hired four reading tutors for K/1, and three IAs to replace folks from last year. We have 2 open positions: a 2nd grade job share and a 3/4 overload position to alleviate large class sizes.

PD Overview: Our staff will have four days of professional development before the start of year focused on equity, RULER, positive discipline, math, and reading.

Family Health Night for October 15th: This will be a fun event to get kids moving and thinking about health via an obstacle course.

First Week Packets Update -- Cliff

Packets are being printed by the school publishing division to reduce costs. Cliff passed out the current version so members can review at home and send comments to him by tomorrow morning. Packets will likely be stuffed next Tuesday morning regardless of whether there is a teacher strike.

September Events and Volunteering Update -- Kimberlee

Kimberlee reported that we're all set with volunteers for the early school year events. Jenny is looking into a possible TM Sounders game on October 25 at 4pm.

Co-Presidents Report -- Casey/Jamie

Goals: We will discuss our PTA Board goals for this year at our October meeting. Please see handout for draft goals.

Technology grant: We are starting the grant process for a laptop cart. We also want to create a technology committee which includes both parents and staff.

School Supply Ordering: We would love to have some sort of bulk-buying program to save money and eliminate the need for parents to buy all the individual items. We have a good person in mind to help with this and hope to have something in place for next school year.

Day of Caring: September 18th. Jamie is working on an opportunity to have 25 volunteers from Microsoft (via United Way) spend a day working to fix the drainage issue around the art installation pillars. We hope we can get a plan developed in time to take advantage of this crew.

Outside Message Board: Ben updated us that we now have the outdoor messaging center and we are waiting for a district to install it.

Minutes: Annette made a motion to approve the August minutes. Donna seconded it. The minutes were approved via voice vote.

Treasurer Report -- Jen

Jen wants to switch to a cloud-based QuickBooks solution or to the new PTAVenue system so that the transitions between treasurers will be smoother. We will monitor PTAVenue and other solutions this year.

Annual Giving Fund Report -- Heather and Stacey

Goal is set at \$160K this year. We have an introductory letter in the PTA first week packet that does include an ask (with a suggested donation amount), along with a request for friends and family contacts. Short discussion ensued regarding trying to garner more friends and family leads.

The Board discussed a potential fundraising opportunity involving paper shredding. We decided to not pursue this opportunity given the expected value/time ratio.

General PTA Meeting Brainstorm -- Casey

The Board had a short discussion about possible speakers for the four general PTA meetings this year. Our October meeting will have a quick presentation about the upcoming school levy. Other suggestions included: Ms. Kaloper, emergency preparedness, birds & bees, racial equity, and technology usage. Support was given for speakers that had hands-on workshops as part of their presentation.

Meeting adjourned.