

Thurgood Marshall PTA Board Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2015, 6:30-8:30pm

In Attendance: Kimberlee Barber-Woodruff, Heather Bauer, Daphne Dejanikus, Donna Dugan, Jen Ellis, Brenda Fackler, Jamie Fackler, Stacey Joanovic, Ben Kim, Cliff Meyer, Lauri Nakamoto, Casey Sommers, Annette Sherr, Katie May, Laurie Kazanjian, Bill Brewster, Chris Armes, Sara Ullman, Percy Allen, Mollie Huppert, Eldon Tam, Jen Hobbs

Principal Report -- Katie

Technology Update: We've added four parents to the technology committee. The committee is focused on creating a vision for technology use at Thurgood Marshall. In addition, the technology team is also creating a list of obstacles people face when trying to use technology at TM.

Equity Team: Nearly two thirds of the staff are now participating with equity team in some way. We've completed the fifth of five Saturday training sessions. The team is setting goals and making an action plan. We know one focus will be looking at the disproportionality in discipline rates, as the makeup of discipline should reflect the makeup of school.

Arts Team: We've started a morning movement class and we're thinking about how our arts work can intersect with our equity work.

Student Assignment Plan: Katie tried to get more information about the proposed changes to the SAP after getting a heads up from parents. She thinks that moving the waitlist date up will be a good change for planning purposes. There is more parent concern about HCC pathways than the waitlist date. Katie has not heard about any expected changes to the HCC pathway.

Student Assignment Plan discussion -- Casey

Casey had an update from the Seattle Council PTSA president and noted that the action item has been pulled from tomorrow night's district board meeting. However, it will likely be back on the district board agenda in two weeks. The PTA Board listed concerns and questions about the proposed changes to the student assignment plan. The board then listed suggestions for what good community engagement would look like in the ideal world. Casey will send these comments to the SCPTSA.

Bell Time Discussion -- Casey

The Co-Presidents sent a letter on the behalf of the TM parent community to the superintendent and school board directors asking them to switch TM to the 8:50 start time for next year (i.e. Tier 2). The current proposal is for TM to start at 9:35am instead of the current year's 9:40am start time. This is because the district plans to move all three tiers five minutes earlier in the latest draft of bell times.

Online Enrichment Discussion -- Jamie

We all know that managing the enrichment program is a huge job. Ideally we want to move to a system that automates the data collection and payments to reduce the amount of work involved. Eldon and Cliff outlined the pros and cons of different online systems. The Board discussed the cost of these systems versus the features offered. We noted the need for a paper registration option for families without computer access. Another option discussed was having Seattle Parks & Recreation run the enrichment program. Board discussed our requirements and priorities. Board decided to push for an online solution for winter (including Parks and Recreation option). We will discuss again at the December meeting for a final decision and we will have a work party if we need to go back to the manual process for the winter session.

Minutes -- Lauri

Annette made a motion to approve the October minutes. Jen seconded it. The minutes were approved via voice vote.

Annual Giving Fund Report -- Heather & Stacey

The fundraising team is finalizing a letter which will be sent to all families for our first big campaign. It will run from November 16th through the end of year. (Final push will be in March.) This Fall campaign will have a \$20K challenge match. The Board brainstormed slogan ideas for this campaign without much success. There will be a “work party” to help put together the mailing.

Co-Presidents Report -- Casey & Jamie

PTA General Meeting Ideas: Casey listed a few ideas for the remaining General PTA Meetings. They included: 1) an Equity Panel (e.g. having someone from Leschi come to talk about their changes, someone from advanced learning about HCC, someone from district equity team), 2) Birds and Bees talk from Amy Lang, 3) Safety, and 4) Technology. The Board discussed the ideas and also talked about ways to get more people from different programs to attend the meetings.

PTA Legislative position opening: We are still looking to fill this position. The Board offered a couple of leads to pursue.

Technology Committee: Cliff outlined grants that we are trying to get to help pay for a laptop cart, but he needs more clarity from the committee in order to pursue. Cliff will talk with the committee directly.

Treasurer's Update -- Jen

Jen is investigating some past charges with the district as there may be an adjustment in our favor. She has spoken to Brindy (since this happened a couple of years ago a well.) She will continue to pursue this, but it may just be a matter of time for the district to sort this out.

Other items of note: Slides have been removed from the playground due to safety, so we may need to budget money for that. Our carryover is larger than expected, which is good, but we need to see if fundraising meets its higher goal this year before we adjust. We are now set up to accept stock gifts as part of our fundraising efforts.

Volunteering Update -- Kimberlee

Leads for all the upcoming events have all been contacted, and we've given the office staff a heads up for upcoming dates. We still need a lead for our pancake breakfast.

Meeting adjourned.