

Thurgood Marshall PTA Board Meeting Minutes

September 13th, 2016, 6:30-8:00pm

In Attendance: Karen Pinkard, Lauri Nakamoto, Jen Ellis, Stacey Joanovic, Zakiya Tyson, Kimberlee Barber, Katie May, Merilee Hudson, Cliff Meyer, Donna Dugan, Hannah Gribben

Minutes -- Stacey J.

Lauri made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Karen seconded it. The minutes were approved via voice vote.

Principal's Report – Katie

Social Studies Waiver: The waiver was approved Friday. Teachers will move forward on blending social studies. They will look to provide an environment of working together and learning how to respectfully discuss and disagree.

Enrollment: Currently enrollment is at 554. There are 10 general education classrooms, 13 HCC classrooms, 2 distinct classrooms and 1 focus classroom. Children in the focus classroom are with their peers for recess, lunch and PCPs. This year we have 50 ELL students. We are looking to the district to fully-fund Cathy Villanueva's position as full time. Currently it is coming from the school's budget. We are making an effort to connect with families who have qualified for advanced learning but who have not enrolled at TM, to encourage them to visit our school and enroll. Katie will look into why the district is predicting a decline in enrollment at TM over the next several years.

Building Update: Every classroom is in a classroom space. Room 114 is now the resource room and is being used by approximately 18 children. The old resource room is now the ELL room. Smaller rooms are being used for short periods by our tutors. The YMCA building has yet to be wired for phone and data so teachers are having difficulties with email and communications. The YMCA space sharing is going well. Katie spoke with Sterling regarding events planning and he is okay with the gym being used in the evenings.

Staffing: We are fully staffed. We have matched teachers who are new to TM with a teacher experienced at TM. Everyone is excited about the new staff.

Other: YMCA may be expanded however not in the near future. We discussed looking into expanding playground supervision before/after school as an option. Childcare will be available at Washington MS, but not TM, for curriculum night.

Fundraising Report - Heather

Karen read an email from Heather discussing that she would like to move forward purchasing/using the Little Green Light database. Heather spoke with a contact at Washington MS who recommended it. Lauri made a motion to approve purchasing/use of Little Green Light. Karen seconded it. Approval was made via voice vote.

President Report– Karen

The board discussed Leschi ES bulk ordering of school supplies and fresh fruit snacks. Katie will check in with Molly to see if she would like to look into a similar bulk ordering for TM.

Vice President Report - Lauri

Lauri led another discussion on the changes in section 10 to the standing rules. Lauri and Cliff will finalize wording for the October board meeting review and vote.

Events Report – Zakiya and Karen

New Family Orientation and Tour: This is a tour for people who would like to volunteer but also for anyone interested in the school. Karen will be doing a tour on September 16th and could use another person to help. It was discussed that another tour will be planned for 6pm on October 18th before the first general meeting to accommodate working parents.

Day of Caring: The Day of Caring is September 23rd. They may not be able to paint interior rooms while children are in the building.

Pi Night: The general PTA meeting is March 14th. It is being planned that kids could have math activities with YMCA staff and teachers in the cafeteria while parents are at meeting in library.

Cultural Night: Katie suggested splitting by grade level into two nights because of its popularity. Kimberlee suggested having smaller stations or use classrooms by grade level.

Treasurer Report - Jen

Jen has nothing new to report. Signing authority is changing Monday.

Volunteer Update - Kimberlee

Curriculum Night: Kimberlee will be setting up a table for volunteering opportunities signup – general, team leads, health screening. PTA membership forms will be available too.

Picture Day: Kimberlee requested PCP/lunch schedules to schedule staff pictures. Staff pictures and short bio's will be posted in front foyer.

Legislative Chair: We discussed actively looking for someone to fill this position. Cliff will post in PP.

Other

Library support: Merilee discussed how librarians have been working with inequalities across the district. They are looking to partner schools and their PTAs to share resources. Merilee is fully in support.

Security: Katie reported that a parent was concerned about security at our school. We are the only elementary school in the central district not to have a secure entrance. Donna said that it has been discussed at the safety committee, and we would like the district to come out and do an audit.

Traffic: Jen led discussion on making Irving Street one-way during pick up/drop off using a sandwich board. Donna is looking to have someone from the city to come out to look at traffic related issues near our school.

Social Studies Progress: It was suggested to add an agenda item to the January meeting to discuss how the blending of social studies is working. This would give a couple of months to reflect.

Homework: Stacey asked about homework policy. Katie will mention at curriculum night. In general, at TM it is thought that 10 minutes per grade is acceptable. Mainly teachers assign reading and some math sheets.

Pup Press: Cliff mentioned that when submitting for Pup Press to include as much content as possible to reduce this additional workload.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.