

Thurgood Marshall PTA Board Meeting Minutes

October 4th, 2016, 6:30-8:00pm

In Attendance: Cliff Meyer, Katie May, Jen Ellis, Lauri Nakamoto, Merilee Hudson, Kimberlee Barber, Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie, Karen Pinkard, Heather Bauer, Stacey Kryman, Donna Dugan, Stacey Joanovic

Minutes - Stacey J.

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

Staff Update - Merilee

Library: Merilee discussed the movement among librarians to create equity across the district and that TM has been partnered with John Rogers. Merilee will meet with their librarian to explore how we can collaborate. Merilee will also meet with Bailey Gatzert to discuss their needs and their partner school.

Student Council: Student council will start end of October. The student council will be using Box Tops for Education to raise funds and will be ready for a November fundraiser.

Principal's Report - Katie

Focus Groups: Focus Groups will be starting this Thursday. We will be looking at student climate data and talking with students in grades 3,4 and 5 about areas that emerge as needing improvement. Our school is participating in new district interim assessments to give us more frequent student data in the areas of positive relationships and healthy communities.

Enrollment: Currently enrollment is at 555. Katie reported that SPS Director of Enrollment Planning Ashley Davies told her more about the five-year projection showing a 25% enrollment drop at TM. Ashley emphasized that these are estimates, and said the drop was most likely due to less neighbourhood school choice, a decrease in the area's number of live births and the program at Fairmont Park. Ashley said the projections are based on all current programs remaining at TM and with growth in HCC.

African American Family Group: Katie discussed that a new African American family group will be starting. It will be announced in the Pup Press and they encourage more people to join to see how we can support families in school. Black Lives Matter day is being scheduled for October 19th.

Advanced Learning: Katie reported that the TM equity team will be at the district meeting tomorrow night for the discussion of the advanced learning policy. Devin Bruckner sent an email with the update from the TM equity team. Scott Davis will be taking over the TM parent role for the HCC advisory committee.

Staff Update: Staff have begun sharing their stories using six word memoirs. A write up on this theme will appear in the Pup Press. We will be encouraging families to share their stories. October 14th is an in-service day and staff will be looking at our data and goals.

Coffee Talk: Katie reported that Sabrina spoke with more than 30 parents at a coffee talk on homework. She spoke about current research and then discussed with parents how it works for their families. The majority of, but not all, parents expressed they wanted no homework.

Vice President Report - Lauri

Standing Rules: Lauri shared the proposed changes to the Standing Rules. See attached amendments. Lauri made a motion to approve the Standing Rules amendments. Karen seconded it. The amendments were approved via voice vote.

PCC Scrip Cards: Lauri proposed the PTA sell PCC scrip cards and discussed the fundraising program. See attached flyer. Lauri made a motion to approve buying the cards. Jen seconded it. Approved via voice vote.

President Report - Karen

General Meeting: Karen made a request for agenda items for October general meeting. Cliff would like future advocacy issues to be discussed and voted on at general PTA meetings so that point of view is greater than the board point of view.

Principal Coffee: Topic for the next principal coffee is TBA. Jen will take care of picking up coffees.

T-Shirts: Karen discussed t-shirt pricing and will discuss flyer with Cliff.

Events and Volunteers Report - Kimberlee

Fall dance: Kimberlee will co-lead the dance and will be looking for volunteers including a co-lead. The DJ will be the same from last year. The dance will follow a similar structure from last year.

Treasurer Report - Jen

Jen told the board to inform her when printing is done through the district so that it doesn't come out of the school's budget.

Fundraising Report – Heather and Stacey K.

Fundraising co-chair, Stacey Kryman, was introduced. We have raised approximately \$30,000 to date. Heather and Stacey reported that the new database is working well. They are looking at using the database for online donations and are comparing it with the current Network for Good. They are planning for the first big appeal that will likely happen near the Thanksgiving holiday.

Special Education Update - Donna

Donna reported that we have one focus classroom and two SM4 classrooms and that there is one seat left to be at capacity across all classes. In our SM4 classrooms there are students in grades 1 through 4. Some students are participating in social studies with first grade classes.

Communications Update – Cliff

Pup Press: Cliff would like more lead time on events or actions to be placed in Pup Press, flyers, the website and sign up genius. Cliff discussed switching e-blasts to a standard mail service such as Mail Chimp.

Directories: Teachers have already been given an advanced student list from the directory. There was approximately 76% participation. Jen will talk with Maggie Trapp about using directory information for membership database.

Other

Reflections Art Competition: Jen discussed the theme, "What is your story?", judging by local artists, and the artist's statement. The competition will be announced to students during their art class and at the Friday assembly.

Meeting adjourned 8:20pm.