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# Thurgood Marshall PTA, Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2014, 6:30 - 8:30pm

In Attendance: Tasha Irvine, Sudeshna Sen, Casey Sommers, Katy Ransom, Stacey Joanovic, Wendy Eckert, Scott Engan, Donna Dugan, Brindy Bundesmann, Julia Janak, Sharmila Williams, Christine Helm

## Enrichment Update - Sudeshna Sen

Sudeshna would like to streamline the Enrichment registration process. It currently consists of time-intensive data entry. To compound the issue, paper forms come in as late as two weeks after classes begin which results in an extended enrollment process. Sudeshna would like to pilot an online registration for faster data entry, also eliminating human error, as without fail, there are cheques "lost" or misplaced. Tasha feels SharePoint will allow us to set up an online registration form - but linking that to a payment gateway is the tricky part. Sudeshna suggests payment with the form, not a separate collection system. Brindy raised the point that not all kids would be able to sign up electronically. Sudeshna would also like to eliminate wait lists for classes because it is a logistical hassle when she is required to chase people down to offer said spot. The board agreed that it was appropriate to offer the spot once and then move on to the next candidate.

## Presidents' Update - Tasha Irvine and Sharmila Williams

We have added three 'Welcome New Family' tours to accommodate the late APP enrollment calendar - one mid-April, one at end of April and one in mid-May. Tour info will be available on the TM website. We thought of adding a contact per grade for any incoming parents with questions. The contacts would be available via TM website - this would be explained in the APP letter that the families receive from TM.

Summer library hours will take place again this summer.

How does the TM PTA feel about providing Fairmont Park PTA with some seed money? People have strong opinions on the matter, and yes, we lost some staff to them - but we want to support TM families who are making the switch. Do we feel comfortable as a group recommending to the TM population that we support the FP PTA? If so, what is the right amount to give? The board agreed that some seed money was appropriate. Amount tbd.

End of year survey? Is one necessary? It has been two years since we have put one together. We didn't do it last year as not much had changed with the PTA - we have had a lot of change both within the PTA and the school so it seems like an appropriate time. We will put one together for the TM community at the end of may, perhaps early June.

## Treasurer's Report - Brindy Bundesmann

We agreed to let the teachers use their \$250 to build their classrooms libraries at their own discretion.

## Nominating Committee Report - Casey Sommers

Casey passed around the new board slate. New slate was approved. See attached.

## Volunteer Report - Wendy Eckert

Things are looking good. Plenty of volunteers coming forward. Bingo night was a big success. The board decided that we would honor three stand out volunteers in our own way and not go forward with the Golden Acorn which takes both time and money.

## Principal's Report - Christine Helm

We will use this year's Bingo experience for next year - we learned so much to take forward. Enrollment is still uncertain. Regarding new teacher hiring - the positions will be posted next week. On Monday 4/21, the hiring committee will decide on what they want to see in

the new teachers. The open music position will not be not posted until May. Christine explained that the timing is based on need. There is a higher need for elementary teachers, music teachers are placed in second tier of need. We are forming committees - there will likely be two parents on each committee and most likely four teachers. Christine just found out that two people she wanted to apply for the jobs were not able to - based on a points based rubric. The TM Open House will take place on the evening of May 7th. There is usually a writing celebration in your own classroom and then students and parents head out to see next year's classrooms.

#### Annual Fund Update - Casey Sommers

Give Big takes place on May 6th - two weeks of Pup Press prior Casey will focus on PTA dollars spent on Kaloper Conference, Recess Aide, Opportunity Grants and Playground highlights. Should we continue to focus on the participation piece? Yes, we feel we should continue to focus on it.

#### Communications Report - Julia Janak

Julia inquired and we confirmed that she is not sending too many emails.

Meeting adjourned.

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