

Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2014
6:30-8:00

Attendees (as listed on sign-in sheets): Tasha Irvine, Casey Sommers, Katie May, Cliff Meyer, Jen Ellis, Jeanne Hoppe, Stacey Joanavic, Angie Jenkins, Lauri Nakamoto, Karen Pinkard, Laura Peterson, Victor Yagi, , Trinia Washington, Patty Pearson, Natalie Zheng, Julia Hibarger, Percy Allen, Molly Harris, Lisa Schaible, Mellissa S. Torres, Susan Morrison, Martin Niset , Carolyn Pugh, Brindy Bundesmann, Mynique Adams, Merilee Hudson, Meghan Kaloper

Welcome & Upcoming Calendar -- Casey Sommers & Tasha Irvine, Co-Presidents

Casey began the meeting by giving an overview of the upcoming PTA events listed at the bottom of the Agenda. Thurgood Marshall hosted an excellent CPPS Parent Training Session on November 8th for 23 parents across all programs and grade levels. The group will meet again in December to continue to work on their action plans, and interested parents can still join the group by contacting the PTA.

We applied for and received a grant from the Dept. of Neighborhoods for a community art project along the MLK road east of the YMCA building. Coyote Central will be making the art installation and there will be a chance for community input in the future.

The September 9, 2014 general meeting minutes were approved. The PTA also approved changes to our PTA Standing Rules. These changes include getting a business license and requiring a reserve fund.

Volunteer & Reflections Art Contest Updates -- Jen Ellis, Volunteer Coordinator

Jen noted that current volunteer needs include: 1) Book Fair volunteers during the first week of December, 2) Pancake Breakfast Chair, and 3) Enrichment Assistant. Contact Jen to get involved.

Also, Jen noted that we had a very successful Reflections Art Contest this year. Fifty students submitted entries, and a panel of judges selected 12 to go to the next level of the competition.

Guest Speaker -- Mynique Adams, Douglass-Truth Public Library

Mynique gave a wealth of information on how the Public Library can help us. These services include: 1) Homework help program, both at the library and via online help, 2) Research -- online resources, including databases, encyclopedia, etc., and 3) Next Five personal resource to help find new books to read. She also spoke and answered questions about the city-wide Global Reading Challenge. She concluded by encouraging us to come and explore the library.

Guest Speaker -- Merilee Hudson, TM Librarian

Merilee began by introducing herself and noting that she has been a librarian for 15 years. She is very appreciative of the PTA in supporting her salary and the many library programs we have at TM. She sees every TM kid each week. TM has a huge checkout rate. Last year, 28K books were checked out by students. Merilee's goal is to have kids excited about books and have lots of books for them to choose from when they visit. When purchasing books, she's thinking about all 3 programs and meeting everyone's needs. She also likes coordinating author visits, such as the recent visit by Kazu Kibuishi, author of the Amulet series. She recently got a grant from the Rotary to allow us to be able to put 3 free books in every student's hands. She also runs a book exchange to foster trading of books between students. She noted that she relies on volunteers to be able to do all these programs and she is very thankful for all their help. In addition to her library work, Merilee also leads Student Council. She ended by noting that there is an iPhone app for leveling books, Level It Books, that will allow you to determine if books are the right level for your student.

Guest Speaker -- Meghan Kaloper, TM Counselor

Meghan introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the incredible number of programs/services at TM that she

oversees. This is her 3rd year at TM and she has previous experience in middle school and preschool. She provides services in 3 ways: 1) Classroom guidance for every classroom, working on emotion management, mindfulness, empathy, problem solving, learning skills, etc. 2) Small Group Counseling to work on specific areas such as friendship, social skills, divorce support, grief & loss, etc. and 3) Individual Counseling for a much smaller population. Additional programs that she manages include conflict mediators program, recess mentor programs, and Kindness Klub. Her School-Wide Initiatives include Wheel of Choice, Brain in the Hand, Buddy Bench and the Taproot Theatre Anti-bullying Performances. Meghan also works with Team Supports, such as Student Support Team, Data Team, and Teacher Consultation/Collaboration. Last, but not least, she also meets with Families and helps with referrals and other family resources.

A special thanks to Mynique, Merilee, and Meghan for taking time out of their evenings to speak to the PTA!

School Report -- Katie May, Principal

Katie began by outlining the latest staffing updates. As noted in the Pup Press, Christine Helm has left and been replaced by Bihoa Caldwell as the Asst. Principal. We are in the process of finding a new Asst. Principal, but we're waiting a bit to get a larger applicant pool. In addition, one of our Peace Academy teachers has given notice that she is leaving so we're interviewing for that position.

The TM Arts Team has met and is working on a vision of arts education at TM, which will be made public in the near future.

Katie noted that there has been lots of parent interest throughout the district regarding lunch and recess. TM now has 3 lunch sections since we grew a little this year. Lunch is 20 minutes long, and we're doing recess first for the 2nd and 3rd lunch periods. Katie's working with a large group of students on making football fun and safe at recess. She is also working with teachers to try to include more movement in the classroom.

Katie introduced the parent reps on TM's BLT (building leadership team). BLT has responsibility for the CSIP (continuous school improvement plan), teacher professional development plan, and the school budget. She encouraged parents to contact the BLT with concerns or questions. The BLT has recently been discussing the boundary changes for TM starting with the 2015/16 school year, and Katie answered parent questions regarding these changes and the impact on our school's capacity.

Lastly, she noted that keyboarding skills will be more important now that the common core tests will require typing. Our school volunteered and has been selected for a pilot typing program.

Treasurer's Report -- Brindy Bundesmann, Treasurer

Brindy gave a quick update on the budget. We're getting more opportunity grant requests from the teachers, which is great. We've funded new maps and globes for the 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Brindy noted that parents can partner with a teacher to sponsor an opportunity grant that touches a large number of students in the school. She also encouraged parents to go to tmlink.org to get to Amazon when you shop.

Fundraising Report -- Stacey Joanovic, Fundraising Co-Chair

Stacey gave a quick update on the Annual Giving Fund. We had a great October, raising \$12K to get to a total of \$42K overall. We are also a third of our way to our participation goal. If you know of someone that would like to support TM, please fill out a Friends and Family report ASAP.

The meeting was adjourned.