

Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes

October, 13, 2015

6:30-8:25

Attendees (as listed on sign-in sheets): Lauri Nakamoto, Anne Phyfe Palmer, Trinia Washington, Molly Harris, Isaac Gribben, Mark Huppert, Mollie Huppert, Doug Collins, Laurie Jensen, Zakiya Tyson, Susan Kingsbury, Tania Westby, Anne Porter, Percy Allen, Katy Mayer, Zach Mayer, Patty Pearson, Keith Harrison, Greg Miller, Robin Counts, Robert Smalls, Alison Miller, Jennifer Ward, Greg Walton, Brenda Fackler, Merilee Hudson, Bill Brewster, Ian Morgan, Katie Vos, Andrew DeVora, Eldon Tam, Bridget Lamp, Donna Dugan, Annette Sherr, Cliff Meyer, Carolyn Pugh, Tamara Mildon, Andrew Shuman, Sara Dickerman, Rob Gruhl, Laura Peterson, Sarah Riggio, Juanita McLaughlin, Kimberlee Barber, Ken Woodruff, Tara Kohls, Casey Sommers, Jamie Fackler, Angie Jenkins, Lisa Schaible, Kenna Hart, Jocelyn Lear, Cora Glass, Jen Ellis, Katie May, Laurie Kazanjian, Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie, Anthony Greenwald

Welcome, Upcoming Calendar, and PTA Business – Casey Sommers and Jamie Fackler, Co-Presidents

Casey welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly introduced the Board and Building Leadership Team (BLT) members that were present.

Casey went through the 2015/16 PTA budget which was approved by the membership at the May PTA General Meeting. See attached handout. She highlighted our fundraising goals for this year, including a goal of \$160K for the Annual Giving Fund, and the primary activities and staffing we support financially at TM. She also requested feedback on these PTA general membership meetings, from speaker recommendations to whether you like the social beforehand. Send feedback via the tmlink.org website.

Jamie reviewed the upcoming PTA events and requested volunteers for a number of positions. See attached agenda for list of events and volunteer opportunities.

Annette Sherr made a motion to approve the minutes from the May general membership meeting. Jocelyn Lear seconded. The minutes were approved.

School Report -- Katie May, Principal

Katie updated the membership on two issues facing the school: staffing and bell times for next year. Unlike many other schools, TM is not losing staff due to enrollment counts so we are set for this year. Also, the original proposal for new bell times for next year had TM as a Tier 1 school with a start time of 8am and an ending bell at 2:10pm. However, due to TM parent survey responses on that proposal, the latest news is that we would remain a Tier 3 school next year, with our start and end times ten minutes later than current bell times (i.e. start at 9:40 and end at 3:50). This is not final yet, as the district may still make changes. There is still a little time to take the survey at tmlink.org if you haven't already.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Anthony Greenwald, co-author of “Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People” and UW Professor

Principal May began by explaining why we were so excited to have Professor Greenwald with us tonight. She noted that we have three programs at TM, but one learning community. We're one of nine SPS schools that are taking part in an equity team and we are striving to provide for the needs of all our students in an equitable manner. Each summer, Katie chooses a staff summer reading book and this year she chose Blind Spot to help staff move forward on their race and equity work. She also felt this would be a book that would be both interesting and useful to our parent community as well. She was excited to learn that one of the authors was at UW and thrilled that Dr. Greenwald had agreed to come speak with us.

Dr. Greenwald began by saying that it was his first opportunity to speak at an elementary school. He spoke for about an hour on his personal background and his research on implicit bias. It's been nearly twenty years since he developed the implicit association test (IAT) and coined the term implicit bias. This test method continues to

be used today, and this area of research continues to evolve. Dr. Greenwald noted that biases are highly resistant to change. Being aware of our implicit biases, understanding implicit bias, or taking the IAT repeatedly is not sufficient to overcome our automatic responses. We need to strive for objective indicators when evaluating individuals. The discussion ended with a lengthy Q&A session.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.