

DRAFT –
Thurgood Marshall PTA General Meeting Minutes
Sept. 9, 2014, 6:30-8:00pm

Attendees (as listed on sign-in sheets): Tasha Irvine, Casey Sommers, Katie May, Jenny Ott, Ann McCurdy, Dana Armstrong, Cliff Meyer, Daniella D'Louhy, Jen Ellis, Annette Sherr, Scott Engan, Beth Zirngible, Kelsey French, Jeanne Hoppe, Stacey Joanavic, Donna Dugan, Angie Jenkins, Lauri Nakamoto, Karen Pinkard, Laura Peterson, Marianne Wilson, Victor Yagi, Noelle Mathias, Bill Brewster, Jay Smith, Juan Valbuena, Trinia Washington, Julie Van Arcken, Andrea Radosevich, Laura Culberg, Devin Bruckner, Susan Minogue, Tania Westby, William Hwang, Tae Jeong, Terri Hough, Greg Miller, Vivian Erickson, Meena Selvakumar, Sara Ullman, Elizabeth Cook, Deborah Caul, Patty Pearson, Tamara Mildon, Natalie Zheng, Julia Hibarger, Pozay Allen, Goon Mehrotra, Viabhav Bhatia, Lynn Davis, Gary Jeweler, Stephen Montsaroff, Maggie Trapp, Francie Bluming

Welcome and Brief Introductions -- Tasha Irvine and Casey Sommers, Co-Presidents

Tasha and Casey began the meeting by introducing this year's Board members to the general membership. Casey explained the PTA communication plan for disseminating information and receiving feedback, which will be mainly through the Pup Press. Casey also outlined the new CPPS initiative that TM is participating in this year. There will be a parent leadership training this Fall as part of the CPPS program. The minutes from the last general PTA meeting (5/29/14) were approved.

School Report -- Principal Katie May

Katie introduced herself to the membership and talked about the routines teachers and students are learning at the start of this school year. TM's overarching theme for this year is Building Bridges. Katie read a poem about bridge building and led a discussion about what bridge building might mean to each of us as it relates to TM. She outlined the big and little things we can all do to help the school feel like a place for everyone.

Katie then briefly discussed the SPS district goals for this year: 1) closing the academic opportunity gap, 2) using professional learning communities (i.e. teachers working interdependently to analyze and impact professional practice), and 3) building the "Seattle Way".

Katie spent the bulk of her presentation on the [TM goals for this school year](#).

In brief, they are:

- 1) **Build a united learning community** Example actions: collaboration between teachers, facilitating mixed recess groups, grade-level blended programs, keeping it R.E.A.L. (i.e. teaching the qualities of Resiliency, Empathy, Accountability and Lifelong Learning), and using "growth mindset" perspectives.
- 2) **Ensure a positive tone in all areas** Example actions: using positive discipline in all classrooms, fostering positive greetings throughout the school, developing classroom ambassadors, and teaching conflict resolution strategies.
- 3) **Professional Learning Community** Example actions: PLC training for teachers and regular grade level team meetings. Writing/language will be our school-wide focus this year.
- 4) **Teacher support** Example actions: grade level planning meetings, support for planning, new teacher orientation, assigning mentor teachers, and creating professional development plans. There will be lots of professional development on writing for the teachers, since this is our curricular focus.

Katie finished by sharing more detail about the agenda and accomplishments for the three teacher in-service days that occurred right before the start of school.

Guest Speaker -- Beth Zirngible, Art Specialist

Beth is new to TM this year and is excited to be in such a supportive school for art education. She relayed her plans to integrate master artists and multi-cultural artists in the curriculum. She also plans to integrate art with what's being taught in math, science, and language arts in the classrooms. She expects there will be a variety of projects, from print-making and mixed media to drawing, painting, and ceramics. Beth would like to increase the amount of art displayed throughout the school and send more art home as well. She ended her presentation talking about the importance and benefits of art education.

Guest Speaker -- Kelsey French, Music Specialist

Kelsey is also new to TM this year, and she is excited to be here after four years at Northgate Elementary. Kelsey gave an overview of the national standards for music education and showed examples of the music curriculum we are using at TM this year. She also outlined the music schedule throughout the week for both band and choir. All this information and more can be found at her website at thurgoodmarshallmusic.wordpress.com.

Calendar note: On Tuesday, 9/23, Kelsey and Dan Yarr will have a drop-in information night from 6-8pm in the music room to answer any questions parents may have regarding instrumental or vocal music.

A special thanks to Katie, Beth, and Kelsey for taking time out of their evenings to speak to the parents of TM!

Treasurer's Report -- Tasha Irvine

Tasha gave a quick overview of the PTA budget process that we use at TM. She highlighted the many beneficiaries of our PTA funds this year, which include paying for 100% of the counselor, 50% of the librarian, a recess aide, installation of overhead projectors in the classrooms, Seattle Children's Theater, special theater performances at assemblies, classroom grants for teachers, library books, art supplies, PE supplies and opportunity grants.

Fundraising Report -- Jenny Ott, Fundraising Chair

Jenny explained that the Annual Giving Fund is the primary fundraising activity for the TM PTA, as we don't have an auction or a big fundraising event at the school. Our goal for the 2014-2015 year is to raise \$130,000. Jenny noted that Annual Giving Fund information came home in the first week PTA packet. Jenny really wants everyone to participate and no gift is too small or too large.

Overview of the Year's PTA Events -- Daniella D'Louhy, Events Chair

Daniella gave a quick overview of the upcoming grade level potlucks, the principal coffee chat on 9/22, and the Fall Dance on 11/14. She encouraged everyone to come to the events and have fun with their kids and other families.

Volunteer Report -- Jen Ellis, Volunteer Coordinator

Jen outlined some of the major current volunteer needs, such as chair for the Fall Dance, and encouraged everyone to volunteer. There are many ways to get involved with TM at different levels of commitment, and it's a great way to meet other parents and teachers while helping the school at the same time. Jen will be contacting everyone who has signed up in the near term. Also, if you have any volunteering ideas, please feel free to contact Jen directly.

Q&A

The meeting finished with a 15-minute Q&A with Principal Katie May.

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.