

Thurgood Marshall PTA, Board Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2014, 6:30-8pm

In Attendance: Brindy Bundesmann, Daniella D'Louhy, Scott Engan, Tasha Irvine, Stacey Joanovic, Ben Kim, Cliff Meyer, Lauri Nakamoto, Jenny Ott, Casey Sommers, Maggie Trapp, Katie May

Co-President's Report -- Casey Sommers & Tasha Irvine

Parent Leadership Update: There will be a parent meeting on 12/16 to maintain momentum and work on the action items. Three areas of focus: 1) creating a new parent orientation for next Fall and potentially a PTA Ambassador program, 2) looking into how to create a welcoming space in the school for parents, and 3) increasing volunteer participation among parents.

Pancake Breakfast Update: We still don't have a chair or co-chairs, so this event is in jeopardy. We don't want to cancel it, particularly since the Art Walk is attached to it. Board discussed having multiple co-chairs with different areas of responsibility instead of trying to find one person to take it on. We may have some later grade parents willing to take on part of the event. We will try to find some younger grade parents to help steer this event by publicizing it aggressively in the next Pup Press.

Dept of Neighborhoods Grant Update: Coyote Central will manage the art installation portion of the project, while Tasha will kick off the community relations piece. First part hopefully will be a TM Day celebration event, potentially at the nearby NAAM.

5th Grade Legacy Update: An explanatory email was sent to 5th grade parents and two parents (Rebecca Bloom and Hadar Iron) have agreed to co-chair.

We approved the minutes from the November Board meeting.

Principal's Report – Katie May

Growth Boundaries update: After much discussion about planned boundary changes for next year, we have been informed that there aren't going to be any boundary changes for next year. It is still likely that there will be changes for the 2016/17 year, so this will be an ongoing conversation.

Academic Volunteers update: As discussed last month, TM would like to get parent volunteers into the K and 1st grade General Education classrooms to assist with literacy on a regularly scheduled basis. We're planning to hold a quick parent training and information meeting on January 8th from 8:45-9:15am. Brindy offered to help corral students so parents can attend the training. Board brainstormed about how to promote this event and the primary suggestion was to have 4th and 5th grade APP teachers send an email to their parents since this is the most likely pool of volunteers.

Annual Giving Fund Report – Jenny Ott & Stacey Joanovic

Jenny noted that we are currently running a winter challenge match of \$10,000 that was promoted via email and has been extremely successful. In other great news, a first grade grandparent offered another \$10K match, which we will use in the future to spur donations. We sent out letters to families that haven't made a donation yet so we're expecting a push to come from that mailing as well. Stacey noted that we are currently at 114 donors, which is 44% of our participation goal. We've received \$60K (46% of dollar goal), with commitments of \$72K.

Jenny noted that there is a problem with the giving@tmLink.org email address that needs to be addressed. Cliff and Brindy discussed the problem and will be coordinating to fix it.

Treasurers Report – Brindy Bundesmann

In January, we will be recruiting volunteers for the budget committee to help set the budget for 2015/16 school year. We will also be setting the PTA budget timeline to track with Katie's school budget process. In addition, Brindy warned that we should start recruiting a new Treasurer for the 2015/16 year. We also discussed another potential fundraising opportunity, but the Board decided against pursuing the Taco Time Coupon books.

Communications Report – Cliff Meyer

The tmlink.org website was down for about a day [Dec. 3] before a domain registration problem was resolved. Cliff is still working with Jeremy and Brindy on email issues (as discussed earlier).

Tutu's Pantry Report– Maggie Trapp

Tutu's Pantry could really use a refrigerator to help store fresh produce, and there seems to be potential for a neighborhood appliance store to donate one to Tutu's Pantry. Katie noted that TM would also like another refrigerator for the Peace Academy. Katie and Maggie will work together on this.

Safe Routes to School Grant Update – Ben Kim

Our grant has been approved for ~\$1000. Items this will pay for include crossing flags, holders, more flagged crosswalks, and organizing a walking school bus. Next step is to complete the required paperwork. Brindy said this would be doable and she would help.

Technology Discussion

The meeting ended with a discussion on technology and how it's being used at TM and what is the appropriate role for the PTA in supporting this technology. We want to begin this discussion now before we're deep in the budget cycle, in case we want to increase how we're supporting technology at TM. Potential support ideas included software, teacher training, ear buds/hardware, and technology consultants. We discussed the new Ipad carts and what other schools are doing in terms of hardware and consultants, but it's clear we need more information on what TM is currently doing and what teachers might want. We agreed the next step is for Casey and Tasha to speak to Katie to get more information about current and future needs.

Meeting adjourned.