
THURGOOD MARSHALL PTA

General Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2013 6:30 - 8:30pm

In attendance - Dana Armstrong, Ann McCurdy, Tasha Irvine, Scott Engan, Nan Robertson, Wendy Eckert, Mark Ainsworth, Daphne Dejanikus, Casey Sommers, Sharmila Williams, Katy Ransom, Julia Janak, Annette Sherr, Ben Kim, Tania Westby, Natalie Zheng, Jeff Olliffe

Minutes from 1/24 were approved.

Sharmila began the meeting with an announcement of two open PTA spots - Enrichment Program Coordinator and Yearbook Coordinator. Please contact Sharmila at sharmilanw@yahoo.com if you are interested in becoming involved with either role.

Budget Committee Update - Nan Robertson

Mark is chairing the TM 2013/2014 Budget Committee. A meeting will take place Monday 4/1 from 7pm to 8pm in the library. Anyone is welcome to attend. One agenda item that has been discussed and approved already per a March deadline - to fund the 1.1 Full Time equivalent (FTE) staffing for next year, the PTA Board committed to a payment of \$82, 565 to the District. This will enable the staffing of .5 librarian, .3 instrumental music and .3 counselor. Without this funding, we would not have a full-time librarian next year.

Principal's Report - Julie Breidenbach

Staffing changes for the next school year are as follows - Nurse Molly will be full-time. The district may give us another .1 FTE for strings instruction - so Mr. Yarr can stay for an entire day. We may have a large increase in 4th and 5th grade students overall based on early projections. With the the new student weighting system, ELL and PEACE students are counted as 1+ each, which puts us over 600 students using this new weighted system and therefore we will most likely get an Assistant Principal. We cannot request a particular person - we can only make suggestions. At this point in time, we are not hiring any new teachers for next year. Samantha Edelhoff (current TM math specialist) will take a full-time teaching position if class sizes require it. In that case, we will not have a math specialist next year.

Curriculum changes - We will be switching to the Common Core Standards next year with ELA - 1/3 narrative, 1/3 informational, and 1/3 argumentative writing next year from this year's 1/2 narrative and 1/2 non-narrative. It is a logical move and most kids will find it a positive change. Julie is excited to have a year ahead without any major changes or new initiatives to incorporate. One negative down the pipeline to consider - we are moving away from MAP and MSP testing to something called Smarter Balance Assessments in 2015, thus tying up the computer lab much more than it is currently.

Treasurer's Report - Mark Ainsworth

All status quo other than the PTA staff funding change for next year from .7 FTE to 1.1 FTE.

Fundraising Report - Casey Sommers

We have raised over 97k to date - and with pending matches it will be close to 100k. Three big announcements next week in Pup Press - Seattle Foundation Give Big, another TM Family Challenge Match and a signed Sounders Jersey to display and raffle are three big fundraising events to take place this spring.

Volunteer's Report - Wendy Eckert

Teacher Appreciation Week takes place May 5th thru May 10th. She would like one volunteer per class to spread info among parents. Field Day is June 11th - volunteers needed for the 10th and the 11th. April 26th is Bingo Night/Art Walk. Bingo Wheel and cards are reserved. White elephant gifts collected by Cindy Gano and Merilee Hudson. There is a plastic bin in room 111 for gifts. Take Your Adult to Lunch is next week.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.
