

12/7/2015

PA Board Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Safi Runesha
Sari Weichbrodt
Mariana Ingersoll
Monica Hughson
Sara Skelly
Tracy Coe
Neetu Sharma
Matt Miller
Shrunali Rai
Saima Sufi
Peggy Lim
Patty Jones
Kim Stolze
Audris Wong
Lena Jessen
Ann Grissom
Krista Hogarth
Tina Louie
Cathy Lee
Leny Leong
Katie Williams
Shipra Parikh

Safi welcomed everyone and thanked Sari for her service to the school on the PA Board and for all of the Schools. This is Sari's last meeting.

Sari asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes and Monica Hughson motioned with a second by Sari and a call for all in favor, passed.

Sari requested a quick summary from all of the Councils:

HS - Kim Stolze reported that all of the grants were reviewed. They are planning a teacher's appreciation event as well as the Senior pizza party, on Thursday the 17th and Friday the 18th respectively. A meeting was had with Dave Ribbens around school spirit events and how the parents can help. Karen Slimmon is spearheading this and Ribbens is thinking about how much parent involvement is necessary for the team sports and will come up with some guidelines. He is hoping to have a cross section spirit day. The Council is also planning parent gathering for Restaurant Week in Chicago where 2 lunches and 2 dinners will be planned. They will be for the last week of January and the 1st week of February. A drafted invite has been sent to Patty for Communications and an email will be sent to the PA Board to sign up in

order to have a PA Board rep at each table if possible. PA Board members are encouraged to sign up for the lunches and dinners before the rest of the parent body to make sure others will attend.

MS – Tracy Coe reported that they held a successful Giant Gym Night with over 100 kids. The Lego Robotics grant was rewarded so that the club could possibly grow into the HS and be able to compete with other schools. Participation in the MS Open House went well and they have secured a venue for the 6th grade notecard event for Mr. Matsikas. In February they are planning an outing at the Fleetwood Roller Skating Rink.

LS – Kathy Lee has agreed to manage the Lost & Found. They have not rewarded all of the grants. They received 25-30 grants and hoped that they would cross multiple classrooms. One request for a speaker needs more promotion and they are not actively pursuing a speaker at this time. They are planning an ice skating event in January as well as a winter spirit day and collecting Box Tops. Cindy Marchesault is managing the 5th grade yearbook. They are helping with the MLK assembly and participating in the Service Day. An ask to the Principal about having a parent coffee hour was not approved because of the morning chaos. More ideas about how to get parents together was discussed including the HS's thoughts around a parent to parent meeting where they would invite the school counselors.

High Jump Presentation - Lee Hart Executive Director of High Jump and Paty Parea Lab School Campus Director for HJ joined the meeting to introduce the program.

Lee and Paty described HJ as a program focused on helping young people achieve their full potential by equalizing educational opportunities, exposing them to Lab, Latin and Parker campuses by having the students attend classes at each and eventually qualify to selective enrollment and college prep High Schools in Chicago and around the country. The students receive academic enrichment for two years during 6 weeks of summer and Saturdays during the school year 2 years above what they are learning in their home schools. They must have A's B's, be a good citizen of their community and qualify for reduced or free lunch at their home school. This is the first year that there are 120 High Jump students attending the Lab Campus. Lab gives in kind support by allowing use of the facilities. Lab has been a very welcoming partner to HJ. Recently the HJ students were able to attend Physics with a Bang on the U of C campus. HJ Board members Mariana Ingersoll and Peggy Lim are contacts for additional questions about HJ. Q&A

ESH – Shrunali reported that a Mix and Mingle is being planned for the ESH and Susan, Carla and Scott Fech are invited. They awarded one grant for a multilingual speaker who will help this teacher in particular because she has many ESL students in her class. One grant also went Amy Landry for her maker space, a tinkering area where children can take the time to explore, build and dismantle, clocks radios computers, etc. She mentioned that many parents are very concerned about security because of the school closing last week and felt like information was not

disseminated properly. Parents are concerned about a system for response time for school closures. It was mentioned that asking the school to give the PA Board specific resources for answering questions from our kids or what to do in an emergency so that it can be posted on the PA website.

Safi asked the Councils to ask their respective principals about these procedures and to report back. One member mentioned that years ago the school even had an evacuation procedure and gave parents a list of who to call if something were to happen at school. (In response to 9/11)

It was also mentioned the Fountain Walker be invited to speak to the ESH parents to answer questions and to ease their minds about security and safety at school.

New Business - Tina Louie reported that this is the last year of Bizaarnival. The model for putting this event on is unsustainable given that over 300 families attend but only 10 to 15 volunteers help to manage the event even if it does make \$1000. It was suggested that the \$ in the budget be used towards a spirit event instead or a fall festival.

Safi mentioned that a survey is going out to parents and that Bizaarnival interest can be measured with this tool.

Communications – Patty reported that from 9/1-11/1 there have been 1256 visitors to the PA website with 684 of them being new users. From 11/1-12/1 there were 1001 visits with 631 of those being new users. She asked that the PA Board please visit the website and report back any bugs to her so that they can be fixed.

Sari reported that the Jessica Lahey of The Gift of Failure can not be recorded so it is important for parents who will find this interesting to attend. A recording of this speaker will not be posted on the website. She mentioned that the school counselors are eager to speak to parents who have questions that arise from these speaker series' and to help facilitate putting these together. She said books should be sold at events. Please use the bulletin boards to post that a particular event is sponsored by the PA, including grant activities. Photos of grant awarded activities should be posted and marked as sponsored by the PA. Please send to Patty the list of grants awarded from each Council so that she can add this to the website.