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~~ DRAFT ~~

## ADAMS PTA MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2009 | 6:30 pm | Adams Elementary

### WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Jen Engelke | PTA President | 6:34 pm

Dinner was provided for the meeting this evening. There was a general discussion of whether to offer dinner for subsequent meetings. The consensus was to continue to offer dinner, whether it was purchased or attending members bring items to share, potluck style.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

See attached sign-in sheet.

### OLD BUSINESS UPDATES

See attached Update Memo

### WORKING AGENDA TOPICS

- District Attendance Plan – Ann (20 min)
- Final Goal Presentation – Susan (15 min)
- Prepare for 10/15 general meeting – Jen/All (40 min)
  - Budget Review for 10/15 approval
  - By-Law Review for 10/15 approval
  - Meeting Flow/Speakers
- Advertisements in the Directory (5 min)
- Spirit Wear (5 min)
- Wrap up (5 min)
- Adjournment – 8:00 PM

## DISTRICT ATTENDANCE PLAN

*Dr. Johnson, Rachel Hart Rios, Tom DeFelice*

The changes to the Seattle School District attendance plan were discussed.

- It was mentioned that Michael Bell from the school board would like parents to participate in the discussion of boundary changes and the attendance plan.
- The Attendance Plan Presentation was shown. It breaks down the new school boundaries into chunks.
- The school boundaries have not been redrawn in more than 30 years.
- The new proposed boundaries will be announced on 10/6. A map will be available at that time.
- There will be plenty of opportunity for community input/feedback, whether positive or negative feedback about the proposed changes.
- For more information, contact Tracy Leibrose at the Seattle school district. She heads the community meetings on the boundary assignments. For more information, see the PowerPoint presentation and the school web site.
- Children will be assigned to their neighborhood schools in Kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, & 9<sup>th</sup> grade. To determine which schools children will attend, the attendance plan takes these factors into account:
  1. Neighborhood location
  2. Sibling assignments
  3. Lottery
- The boundary changes will begin this year, but it will be a “soft” initial implementation. This will enable the school district to see how it goes and take input about how it works. Students who are not entering Kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade will be able to continue to attend the schools they are already attending, however, their younger siblings might not be assigned to the same school.
- There will be a meeting on this issue held at Ballard High School on Wednesday, 10/14 from 6:30 -8:30 PM. There will be other meetings held around the area. See the PowerPoint presentation on the web site for additional information.
- There will be a vote to approve or reject the proposed boundaries on 11/18.
- In addition to assigning children to their neighborhood schools, the district is trying to cluster services in each area. This will make student assignments tricky.
- There is also the possibility of reopening some of the schools at the North end.
- The process for assignment has not yet been defined. It will be part of the discussion held over the next few weeks.

The School District Reassignment PPT presentation was shown, and included the following information:

- The timeline for the changes was presented.
- Changes are to begin next year with the entry level grades for each school level (K, 6, 9).
- There will be three types of schools - attendance area schools, option schools, service schools
- One advantage is that families will no longer have to wait months to learn which school their children will attend.
- Also included was School Choice and Tiebreaker information.
- The new boundaries will be voted on 11/18.

After the presentation, further discussion of the proposed assignment and boundary issues ensued.

- Information about this issue will be included in the forthcoming Newsletter.
- The question was raised about how the PTA should discuss the plan with families at Adams.
- Dr. Johnson stated that this year, and for the first time, Adams had a waiting list of 20 children for Kindergarten and several in each. The school currently has 420 students enrolled. At the end of last year, the school had 435 students.

## FINAL GOAL PRESENTATION

*Susan Freccia*

The visual representation of the goals (flower drawing) was presented. Daria designed this visual representation of the Adams PTA mission statement and goals for the year. This visual will be handed out to the membership at the General Meeting on 10/15. Additional information about the mission statement and goals will be included in a packet that is also handed out to the membership.

The PTA goals for this year comprise three general areas:

- **Legislative**  
These are time sensitive issues, and thus, this is the highest priority goal.
  1. Ensure levies are passed
  2. Reject initiative 1033
  3. Support HB2261
- **Outreach & Communication**  
*Internal*
  4. Identify and reach out to students and parents who the PTA is currently not reaching.
  5. Coordinate all school events, whether PTA or school sponsored, and facilitate parent/teacher communication and support.  
*External*
  6. Connect with the local community and market Adams to the community. This includes fundraising endeavors.
- **Arts Integration**
  7. The Adams PTA must determine how to spend the extra PTA funds allocated to this area.
  8. Explore what it means to be an arts-rich school. This will include discussions with and about Arts Impact, the Arts Integration committee, Dr. Johnson, and the school membership.

It was discussed that the definition of “arts-integration” needs to be further refined to improve what this means to the Adams community.

There were many great ideas presented for the goals this year. It was discussed that there were too many goals to take on for this year, so some of them will be deferred until next year. Some of the deferred goals included:

- Health and biking
- Health fair
- Outdoor gardening experience

There was also a general discussion about the school library and the amount of library time each grade receives.

- Kindergarten classes have ½ hr of library time per week.
- 1<sup>st</sup> grade and above classes have ½ hr of library time every other week.
- This is an issue the PTA needs to be aware of. Perhaps a goal for next year could be how to achieve more library time for all the children.

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- There was general discussion around whether or not PTA funds could be used to fund salaries. It was mentioned that this might be possible, but there are specific rules and regulations to be followed. This may be something the PTA can investigate further in the future.
- It was also discussed that budget cuts could affect library time further next year.

A question was raised about how families can support teachers and academics at the school. This topic is not specifically included in the goals. There was discussion about whether this might be included in the Outreach/Communication goal.

Another question was raised about how to entice families to attend the General PTA meeting. The intention is to put the PTA message out to spark and maintain interest. This will include reminders that the PTA meetings are a vehicle to achieve the goals and achieve school related tasks, events, and projects. The PTA Board will explore various ways to use the school events (concerts, etc.) to bring families together, help the community grow, and maintain community interest in helping the school.

There was general discussion about the two PTA meeting types: Planning Meetings and General Meetings.

- PTA by-laws require that a certain number of General Meetings are held each year.
- This year, there are currently three General Meetings planned. Additional General Meetings will be added if necessary.

The first General Meeting (10/15) will include a presentation of the PTA goals, as discussed at this meeting.

- There was a suggestion to move Legislative goal #2 to the first item because it occurs sooner.
- There was general discussion about Initiative 1033. The PTA cannot advise the membership how to vote. The PTA can provide information about the Initiative and what can happen if it does or does not pass.
- Ingrid will speak about the Legislative measures at the 10/15 General Meeting.

## **PREPARE FOR 10/15 GENERAL MEETING**

*Jen Engelke/All*

### **Budget Review for 10/15 approval**

Interim budget

- The proposed budget does not have many changes from the Interim budget that was proposed at the General Meeting last Spring. There are a few small changes, which are outlined on the budget page (attached).
- All PTA board members should review the proposed budget and email any questions, suggestions, or changes before the first General Meeting on 10/15. Please send emails to Amy, Jen, and Susan.
- Arts integration funds overflow - The PTA will have to discuss where to spend the overflow in the Arts Integration funds. This money does not have to be spent this year. It can be allocated for a future purpose.  
Suggestions include:
  - Saturday art class for teachers
  - Fixing, replacing, or purchasing new arts equipment
  - Teacher grants

A question was raised about possible improvements to the atrium area on the lower floor of the school. Apparently, funds were raised for that purpose in the past, but action has not yet been taken.

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### **Review of the Adams PTA By-Laws**

The Adams PTA by-laws must be presented to the membership at the first General Meeting (10/15) for approval.

There was general discussion about the changes to the by-laws.

- At the 10/15 General PTA Meeting, the new by-laws will be handed out to the membership. The changes will be highlighted.
- Prior to the meeting, the changes to the by-laws will be published in the newsletter so the membership can review them prior to the General Meeting.
- One of the changes this year was to remove the exact titles of the possible vice presidents, and instead indicate that there may be multiple vice presidents.

There was also general discussion about why the previous changes (previous years) were made.

- For more information about the areas at issue, see #7 in the draft of the by-laws.
- Committee chairs are board members, but not elected board members.
- VP of Scrip has to be on the PTA bank account as a signer.
- Everyone listed as a VP (elected) must also be able to sign on the bank account.

Further discussion about the changes to the by-laws ensued. Susan will send the draft of the by-laws to the board so everyone can ask questions and make any suggestions for changes.

There was also a general discussion about the definition of a Quorum.

- The last iteration of the by-laws defined a quorum as 10 PTA members.
- The current draft changes the definition to 10% of the membership to align with the definition in the general PTA by-laws.
- Concerns were voiced that 10% might be an unreasonable number to expect to attend the General Meetings, which is why the definition was previously lowered to 10 members.

It was asked whether the Grade Representatives could ask the families in their grades if they received their membership memos. The necessary forms are available on the Adams web site.

### **General Meeting Flow and Speakers**

The meeting flow for the 10/15 General Meeting has not yet been finalized. The topics and speakers have been determined, but do not need to be discussed at the board meeting. The agenda will be organized and categorized to facilitate a good meeting flow. The agenda and meeting flow will be sent out prior to the 10/15 General Meeting.

### **ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE DIRECTORY**

#### *Julie Collins*

It was discussed as to whether or not advertisements should be included in the School Directory. One suggestion was to talk to Sarah Brands about the advertising from the auction last year. Another suggestion was to look at the Eagles Pages from past years. Alison Krupnick may have some information about the Eagles Pages.

It was decided that if advertisements would delay the directory, they should not be included this year. It was decided to defer this to next year.

## INTRODUCTIONS

The board members present at the meeting introduced themselves.

## SPIRIT WEAR

*Rachel Hart Rios*

The Eagle's Nest inventory on Spirit Wear is low. Possible options for designs were discussed. One suggestion was to make this a student council project for next year.

There was a general discussion of options for this year.

- Last year there were multiple designs available.
- It was suggested that this year, only one design should be available.
- General discussion about whether to request submissions from school parents for a new design.
- There was one suggestion to defer a new design to next year, or wait until later this year.
- It was decided to request submissions for parental designs.
- Rachel will talk to Linda and Kris about placing a call for submission in the Newsletter.

Once designs are decided upon, a computerized system that enables individual orders of Spirit Wear might be a viable solution to reduce overhead.

## COMPOSTING UPDATE

*Betsy Rouvas*

Jennifer Greenstein & Margaret Paulk have volunteered to be the advising teachers for the program. They plan to include composting in their classroom science programs.

Nicole from the Seattle school district is coordinating the composting program. The program uses biodegradable bags and red cans.

The board must decide whether to proceed with composting for this school year. Whether to participate in the program is not about money, it is about having the time, effort, and resources to participate.

Teacher training for the program will be held next March. If Adams attends the teacher training, the program provides a six month supply of bags. The board must decide whether to implement the composting program at Adams now, or wait and launch it in March. The only outstanding question is whether the teachers can attend the Teacher training program if the school has already launched a composting program. Betsy is to follow-up on this and provide more information so the board can make a decision.

## CLOSING

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.