

**11/18/08**

**Site council minutes**

**Attending:** Maria Gutierrez, Katie Zisserman, Tamara Leonard, Naara Righi, Mia Pickering, Crystal Okada, Mari Brockhaus, Maria Callahan, Timothy Corey, John Miner, Betsy Jones, Julie Bisson, Nova Herzog, Teresa Swanson, Michelle Brown, Joel Domingo, Robert M. Huberth, Karen Appel, Kellie LaRue, Greg Barnes, Chris Stewart, Lisa Calvert, Rick Lemberg, Aimee Jacobsen

**Introduction Items/Maria:**

Community Organization for February Legislation Lobbying Day: We've never participated in this state PTA lobbying day. Do we want to participate? If so, what would be our talking points? We're facing a 25% state budget reduction. Maria will place some contact info about this in the newsletter in the next two weeks.

**Action Items:**

**Greg Barnes/After-school ultimate Frisbee club:** Greg is planning on starting an ultimate Frisbee club and would like to see how many parents would be interested in signing up their children. Wednesdays, after school, for about one hour. **Consensus reached.**

**John/Anonymous bequest for musical/performance acquisition:** John suggested to the grantor that an appropriate use of this money would be some more updated equipment for the stage (e.g. a soundboard) or some additional musical instruments. Our current soundboard is ok but new ones are much smaller. Suggestion for better microphones for our stage. We could also explore a setup linked to the sound amplification towers that are currently used in the classrooms. Also a suggestion for a new lightboard (many switches are broken) and some new stage lights. John will do some additional research and return with a recommendation.

**Principal's report/John**

1. Received a budget update today, which was circulated to the group. The good news is that instead of an additional 25 million to the deficit, only an additional 4 million in deficit will be added to the district budget.
2. Weighted staffing standard is to be reduced by 4.8 million. John has written to Don Kennedy to ask for more detail about this process.
3. Our school budget is due the third week of March, but that date may be pushed out a bit depending on what happens at the state level.
4. Day between semesters on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Staff has requested to get trainers here for first aid and CPR training for that day.
5. District has requested updated functional capacity numbers. John is working with the district on this. We have 16 classrooms; 2 resource rooms; 1 art room; 1 library; 1 gym. The district is funding only one PCP room per eight classrooms.
6. John had a conversation with Harium Martin-Morris about the ongoing closure/relocation plan. Harium and Mary Bass are working on an amendment saying that they want the Summit program to move to Meany. If they negotiate a new home for Summit, that will mean a lot less pressure on enrollment for our community. Letters in support of finding a new home for Summit may be helpful. Kellie will provide more information.
7. BTA summer work. Staff members are beginning to think about enlisting parents for help in preparations for this work. Work will begin the day after school gets out. Question raised about new water pipes. We may need work parties on the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> to prepare.
8. There may be an audit this spring of alternative schools. John has let Carla Santorno know that he would like to be involved in this process.

9. January 20<sup>th</sup>: Big projection of the inauguration!

**Staff report/Mari**

1. Funding needs for next year: Staff member feels that more academic assistance would be helpful. A general training of classroom volunteers would be helpful as well.
2. Extending support to the new K-8: Staff agrees it would be best to simply respond to their needs. Also, if we get a responsive classroom training here, then perhaps we could extend that to the new K-8 staff.
3. Assembly tomorrow: Assembly on self-respect, anti-bullying, character development. They incorporate yo-yo tricks while they talk on these issues. This was a free gift from a parent.
4. MLK assembly will be at 1:00 on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The inauguration will begin at 9:00 am.

**Mia Pickering/Auction**

Theme for the auction this year is Step Lightly—a green theme emphasizing our expeditions and environmental awareness. With this new approach come a couple of new things:

- Using less paper: The plan is to use evites and not use paper invitations.
- Donate-now link on the web page: This eliminates the use of the NCR form. You can give a card to potential donors and they can find the link on the website.
- Online auction: Some of the silent auction items will be listed online a week beforehand. This saves on some of the marketing materials that are needed for these items and it buys time at the auction itself. There will be more time at the end of the auction for some dancing.

Also, lowering the ticket prices this year to make it more accessible for all families. They also want to offer items that are affordable for everyone.

The auction committee needs everyone on the site council to start talking about it and about the value of supporting a public school. We also need to come with a very compelling funding item for the raise the paddle. We need to craft the appeal of whatever this item is.

An additional item to “fund a need” is a “build a need” item to give everyone an opportunity to volunteer hours instead of money.

One idea here is for some parents to volunteer to spearhead a Neighborhood Matching Grant for a new play structure for the younger children.

If every family in the school did these three things, we would have everything we need:

1. Ask a provider you know for a donation.
2. If there is an experience that your family enjoys, then donate that experience.
3. If there is something that you are fond of, then ask for a particular donation of the one item. The auction committee can then combine those items into packages.

Maria suggests being very explicit about these ideas and goals so that everyone is aware of the inclusiveness. Mari suggests providing the teachers with some info they can include in their classroom newsletters.

Need to fill some key positions:

- Procurement contact person
- Raffle coordinator
- Business ads and sponsorships
- Multimedia slideshow

- Wine procurement person
- Also need recruits for auction coordinators next year

### **Robert M. Huberth/Treasurer**

Budget highlights:

- Walkathon is at 27K now, donations still climbing

5013c status: This process has slipped. We originally submitted the prior year; then the state came back and said they want the current year. Robert has prepared the current year for the state so we should be up to date for matching funds soon.

### **Joel Domingo & Karen Weisbard/Communications**

The communications group is preparing the parent handbook for tours. Please review the handbook on the website and give any comments to Joel and Karen.

Parent coffee with John Feb 7<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 8 pm. Also will be a Roots of Empathy program happening next month.

### **Kellie LaRue/District Relations**

The closure process that has just concluded was only round 1. The next round will be for the 2010 school year. The district will be redrawing all of the reference areas and assignment plans, which will result in significant disruptions.

We can probably anticipate disruption to our enrollment following our listing on the “moving” list. We may see a lack of confidence in our program because of the uncertainty surrounding this issue. Therefore we need to think about what image and what message we need to convey to these prospective parents. We need staff to give input on what should be our consistent answer.

Something for the staff to keep in mind is that as the assignment plan becomes more structured, families may make choices not based on seeking out our particular program but because of “not my neighborhood school.” This may begin to affect the type of families that are involved in our program.

Lisa made the point that it is very important to keep in mind that the choice option has created severe inequities in most parts of the city so we should be careful of how we discuss it.

### **Maria**

Maria still needs input on the parent group by-laws. Please ask Maria if you would like to see these.

**Meeting adjourned.**