

PTA Minutes-January 2017

- Call to order 6:06 by DJ Potter
- Review of the norms by DJ Potter
- Voting approval of the November minutes. Becca motioned to approve.
- Fun Run update by Jamie Ojeda- The \$2,000 fee has been waved. T-shirt orders will be \$4. We want all kids to have one. Chandra motioned for approval to proceed with the Fun Run in March. Seconded by Eric and Kelvin.
- PTA Board Election by Jamie Ojeda- We would like to double the board size for next year. The current board will stay on for another year and take on an additional person for each role. The current board will train and help the new board all next year and then next spring, the new board will bring on an additional 4 people. This will allow for more people to be involved and for the current board to train and help turn things over for the new board. Each year there will be an overlap.
- Treasurer's Report by Rachel Trice- Results of most recent fundraisers:

Holiday Shop (December 12th – 15th) grossed \$6,314 with expenses of \$4,806 raising the PTA \$1,508. The net funds raised came in \$92 under budget which can be explained by the shorter fundraising period (3 days vs. 5 days in budget).

Benders Brat Haus restaurant night on December 15th raised \$603 (50% return)

Box Tops has raised \$1,095 to date

Skate City night on December 6th brought in \$135

School placed 2nd in the USAgain recycle competition receiving \$150

With conservative estimates for Catalog sales and fun run, the forecast for net funds raised by the end of the year at \$5,136 (this is after the \$7,500 of required reserve funds).

Members were presented with financials that included analysis on return % on each fundraiser to date. This analysis should help membership determine which fundraisers are worth continuing next school

- Special Guest: Jill Adair, 5th Grade- In 5th grade, each teacher specializes in certain subjects: Mrs. Adair in literacy, writing, and social studies; Mrs. Bousquet in math and science. The writing focus for 5th grade includes: publishing a book, fictional stories, personal narratives, opinion essays, informational reports, poetry, 5 paragraph essays, and poetry books with illustrations. They do a 5th grade showcase and author's tea where students create a tri-fold board to display their writing process and personal reflection of what they learned.

In literacy, students write short stories, participate in literacy study groups for leadership skills, use Bloom's Taxonomy, and read Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry which connects to social studies.

In social studies, the students write historical fiction about the American Revolution and then create a board game. 5th grade also takes a trip to Calwood May 3-5 in Jamestown, which correlates with the science curriculum and is a service learning experience.

In math, students participate in classroom economy and apply for community jobs. They receive monthly paychecks, pay rent for their desks, and receive bonuses. This gives them insight into the real world.

- Dave Schoenhals said the author's tea presentations are a great way for kids to bloom as writers throughout the process.
- Dj Potter- We will be doing a Krispy Kreme gift card fundraiser in April.
- Dave Schoenhals: Budget redesign- There will be less funds for next year. They have been trying to find the right forum for presenting the information. There will be a \$31 million budget reduction for APS next year. The number of at-risk students (English language learners and free/reduced lunch) is down. People are being priced out of their neighborhoods because rents are going up to \$1,600 a month and is having a major impact on families.

APS employees gave feedback and ideas and we are waiting on open communication from the district. There will open houses on: January 19 @ 6:00 pm, January 21 @ 10:00 am, January 24 at 4:30 pm, and January 31 @ 6:00 pm. This budget reduction has hit us a fair amount this year. The Division of Accountability Research paid for our psychologists for testing new students, and that money is now lost. We also lost money set aside for technology. This spring, we are going to look at our budgeting process, our mission statement, and opportunities for kids and ask parents for feedback on important programs.

Enrollment numbers are down in the district, but that won't be an issue at Quest since we take kids to capacity. The district is checking what is sustainable for running schools. In February/March we will receive next year's budget. We had a 1% cut this year, plus another \$22,000.

PTA Board met with Dave Schoenhals in December to discuss engaging the community. Over the next couple of months we want to build more community experiences and change what PTA's role will be at Quest. We will review practices and see if they are still

relevant, what we value and want to make a priority, what is sustainable, what are our fundraising goals, and what makes sense as far as where it will be spent.

Question: Why didn't passing the bond fix the budget? Voters passed it and now as a district we have to be careful about what the implications are and how it is presented. We will be discussing this topic at accountability meetings for the rest of the school year.

Question: Why are we building new schools if enrollment is down? Looking at the maps of the school district, the northern side of the district has less students, the southeast has new developments and are overcrowded and need new schools.

Question: Will there be boundary changes in the future? Significantly less kids are entering kindergarten that before. The number of kids families are having is impacting the number of enrollment, especially in the north area. A big chunk of the bond paid for Mosley, which opened at capacity.

I take it very seriously being the steward of the money in this building. Kim Pippenger even bought me a nice set of pens because I don't like to spend money on myself. I want to look seriously at our monies and see which are the best experiences are for kids.

Question: What is the plan for testing this year? How will it be funded? One day we are not paying for lunches during the initial testing. The psychologists are inviting kids, who scores were meeting, to come back and test again. Comp time was given to support teachers to help.

We want to invite parents in to do presentations, attend presentations, and get parents involved. We want to start from scratch. We want to provide our students with the experiences they deserve and need.

We will come to the table with some firm numbers from a financial standpoint and have a budget committee who can present to a larger group. I know this is a huge challenge but we will get past it and be better. I wanted to speak to a group of people because it stinks, but we will get through it.

- DJ Potter- We would like some people to chair some sub committees for PTA and help run some of the areas.

- Peter Gonzalez- We will be putting together an event in February for dads and daughters. It will be called Braids and Rootbeers. We will get together and learn to do hair and have a treat.

Question: What about dads with sons? We will come up with another community event to include all dads in addition to the braids event.

- Becca Peters: Movie Night- I spoke with the City of Aurora regarding holding a movie night. We cannot charge for the event, but we can charge for concessions. This will be a community event. The date is to be determined. Possibly the Girl Scouts could volunteer to run concessions. We could also invite Mosley to attend (Dave approved this).
- January is Power Month for Box Tops.
- Drawing for a Panera gift card: Chandra won
- Cindy motioned the adjournment of the meeting at 7:11 pm. Dave and Kim seconded it.