

PTA Board Meeting Dec 4, 2014

**In Attendance:** Cheryl Parks, Katie Price, Dorian Manza, Kathryn Ficarra, Lisa Blau, Amy Tucci Webert, Jen Wenrick, Lisa Johnson, Elaine Cooper, Carrie Wheeler, Shannon Sommer

### **General Business**

- Motion by Jen Wenrick to approve November Board minutes, Lisa Blau seconds and November minutes are approved.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Kindergarten Cookie Decorating –Jen**
  - Will be tonight, Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014; Marina Vinniechenko is the Chair, with support from Kelly Fulks; the PTA Board liaison is Jen Wenrick and Katie Price, Kathryn Ficarra and Dorian Manza will all be there representing the Board and helping with set up and clean up; Budget is \$100.
- **General Membership Meeting – Carrie and Kathryn**  
1/22/2014 6:30pm  
Action Items: Plan; Childcare; and Communications
- **Kindergarten Tours and Open House – Carrie**
  - Meagan Green and Vanessa Gregory are the Chairs; PTA Board liaison is Carrie; Tours are scheduled for Friday 1/23 and Tuesday 2/10; Carrie would like some board members to volunteer to give tours; Open House is Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and Carrie and Kathryn will be there to speak to parents; Carrie and Dorian are working on the brochure and updating pictures for the brochure.

### **Budget Update**

- Katie has run all of the December credit card payments for the Direct Drive and caught up on all check deposits from; For the playground project, Katie has just made the 1st payment to the architecture firm and will be reimbursed from city; payment came from “playground project” under “pass through programs” in the budget.

### **School Business / Events Update**

- Dorian provided an update on school business: Lawton has several school-wide initiatives focused on authentic engagement for students including guest authors, guest artists, STEAM challenges etc; He stressed that learning doesn't take place unless there is a “buy in” from students and these things help get students motivated and excited about learning; He would also like to focus on social-emotional competencies (ie, character traits month by month and “filling the bucket”); He and the Lawton staff are also looking at student data, student work and the multitude of assessments that students are doing in order to better provide differentiated learning for all students; the BLT is working on common language for “Lawton Cares” (Compassion-Attitude-Respect-

Effort-Safety) and is aiming to make it visible in the commons, hallways etc so that it is easier to redirect students behavior.

### **Fundraising Strategy, Preparation for 2015-2016**

- Carrie provided an update on the Direct Drive; Several line items will be frozen until we determine how much money is raised from the Soiree including the PTA Priority Fund (\$5,000), the School Priority Fund (\$1,500 remaining balance), Safety Opportunity Fund (\$2,500), the Secret Garden Fund (\$250), and the funds for the Student Directory (\$500 - if a directory is done, parents will have to purchase individually).
- Kathryn and Carrie will work on messaging to the community; this will be a letter or email focusing mostly on how the percent of participation went down; Before doing this Carrie would like information on grade band participation trends.
- The Board discussed a few ideas to increase participation next year, including
  - Having a short presentation on curriculum night before the teacher presentations; Dorian suggested a video that could be shown on curriculum night, including kids and teachers talking about what they appreciate about the programs provided by direct drive funds
  - Decreasing narrative communications and increasing quick bullet-point communications
  - Considering class challenges (percent participating) rather than grade band challenges in order to increase competition
  - Increasing communications now through the start of the next direct drive that highlight when direct drive funds are spent (i.e. “this event brought to you by Direct Drive funds”, etc.)
  - Revamping the contribution form to include “sponsor a child that can’t afford to contribute”, “I can’t give monetarily, but I can give time” or “I can’t contribute now, but I can in January” etc.

### **Soiree Update:**

- The Lawton Soiree will be April 24th, 2015 at the Fremont Foundry; tickets will be approximately \$45 and include appetizers and dessert; parents will have the opportunity to sponsor a staff member; Connie will send out a “Save The Date.”
- Terri Richardson is working on procurement of items/experiences for the auction; if anyone has ideas or connections to companies they should let Terri Richardson know.
- Classroom Art Update: Laura Van Horne is doing all the shopping for all of the art projects; classroom parents were supposed to send lists to her by yesterday; approximately 10-13 classes have done so, she is still waiting for 4.

### **Playground Project Update – Amy**

- Amy gave an update on playground project; A date is not set for the next community meeting but it will hopefully be Thurs, Jan 22 to coincide with the General Membership meeting; Amy will be meeting with the architecture firm in the library from 12-1:30 tomorrow, Dec 5th, and anyone is welcome to attend; the committee meets every Tuesday evening from 7-8pm at Serendipity Lounge and all are welcome to attend;

the Board discussed the idea of a class competition to increase participation at the community meeting (for example, the class best represented at community meeting will get extra recess time).

### **Other Business**

- **Verification of Building Use Forms** (PTA Board Meetings, General Membership Meetings, PTA events): we need someone to do Building Use forms for World Cultures Night, Bingo Night, Math and Mingle Night and the Science Fair.
- **Cold Weather – Late Start – No School due to Weather procedures:** the Board discussed providing communication to parents about snow days; Dorian and other school officials are discussing the events when the power outage happened (perfect storm of events) to have some better procedures in place if it were to happen again.
- **Recruitment for Chair Positions Needed:** Cathy Johnson is taking over updating the outside reader board and the birthday board; a new Yearbook chair is needed.
- **New BLT Schedule:** (3:15 - 4:45 Board is there to listen and be a liaison)
  - December 16 Amy
  - January 6 Shannon
  - February 10 Katie
  - March 10 Kathryn
  - April 7 Carrie
  - May 5 Lisa Johnson
  - June 8 Lisa Blau

### **Superintendent Appointment - Elaine**

- Elaine provided an update on the appointment of the SPS Superintendent: there are some PTAs (not Lawton) that are concerned that Dr. Nyland's appointment was being pushed through too quickly; the vote will now be next Wednesday and the community can give feedback until then; more information will be on SPS website.

### **Adjourn**