

October PTA Board Meeting, 10/02/14

Attending: Kathryn Ficarra, Carrie Wheeler, Dorian Manza, Amy Webert, Jen Wenrick, Katie Price, Lisa Blau, Elaine Cooper, Cheryl Parks, Shannon Sommer

Reviewed Events from the past month

- Back to School Bash
 - People seemed to enjoy it, especially the balloon guy; also liked the additional activity choices and thought the food was good; didn't hear any complaints about wait times despite long lines at times
 - Revenue from food: \$1,952.86
 - Revenue from bake sale (for Islandwood): \$343.69
 - Expenses: \$1609.17
 - Budget Final: \$643.17 (\$343.69 slated for Islandwood)
 - Revenue doesn't reflect plate count because some people just overpaid

- Before and After School Clubs
 - Off to a great start with more than 241 students participating
 - 19 scholarships were requested and 17 were provided (the two not offered for this session were offered for 2nd session but the families chose payment plans instead so they are participating this session)
 - Total scholarship amt granted \$2,379

- Visiting Author
 - Janet Wong was fantastic, lots of kids won books
 - Tom Watson had 3rd-5th graders riveted

- Curriculum Night
 - Parents really liked two time options so they could visit multiple classrooms
 - Areas to improve: Parents would like to know name/contact info for their kid's math teacher if their kid walks to math; Parents would like teachers to talk about homework/homework expectations; Maps helpful for new families
 - Several people mentioned long wait times and long lines to be able to talk to teachers resulting in the second time slot presentations having to be cut short; maybe we need some communication to parents about curriculum night not being the time to talk to teachers individually about a student; teachers could remind parents during their presentation

Budget Update

- Katie pointed out that the budget currently shows a large amount of income in the "Doing Business Day" category because we do not yet have a breakdown of the amounts for before/after school clubs, spirit wear etc. This amount will eventually be allocated appropriately

Upcoming Events

- Family Health and Fitness night update from Cheryl
 - Thurs October 9th, 6-8pm; there are several guests/vendors participating; information went out to room parents and there are posters in the hall advertising the night; t-shirts are ordered and will be given as prizes

- BLT Meeting PTA Representation
 - 9/9 - Cheryl
 - 10/7 - Jen
 - 11/4 - Elaine
 - 12/2 - Amy
 - 1/6 - Shannon
 - 2/3 - Katie
 - 3/3 - Kathryn
 - 4/7 - Carrie
 - 5/5 - Lisa Johnson
 - 6/2 - Lisa Blau

Direct Drive

- Update
 - Pledge cards and plea letter went out on curriculum night, 9/23, or were mailed home to families unable to attend on 9/25
 - Current numbers: already received \$18,650 and 46 pledge cards at day 5 (better than last year); one donation so far has come through paypal
- Communications
 - Will have 5th graders do reader board updates
 - Connie and Amy will work on weekly newsletter info
 - Dorian will send letter from himself soon and do a robocall phone call
 - We still need personal plea letters from parents in some grades
 - Connie will send out sign up genius for holding signs before/after school

October General Membership Meeting, Oct 2, 2014, 6:30-7:30

- Agenda
 - 6:30 - Welcome and Introductions, Carrie and Kathryn
 - 6:35 - Who in the World is Mr. Manza - Dorian
 - 6:45 - Why be a part of the PTA?
 - 6:55 - It Takes a Village and Volunteer Opportunities - Cheryl, Lisa B, Carrie, Kathryn and Jen
 - Specifically looking for: Community Outreach (to work with existing members), 5th grade camp (for 2015), Arts and Enrichment Committee (to work with existing members), Bingo Night, Box Tops for Education, Field Day, School Directory, Science Team, Office Support Team, Move-a-thon, Yearbook

- 7:15 - Understanding Proposition 1 with guest Michael DeBell, retired two term Seattle School Board Director, Former PTSA President
- Room Parent training will take place following the meeting, from 7:30--8:00pm

Update from Elaine Cooper on Initiative 1351

- Initiative 1351 will lower class size to 17 for lower grades and 24 for upper grades; Union is looking for principals and PTAs to support it;
- For our PTA to support it, we would need to do a full membership vote
- Some questions on what counts as a classroom teacher b/c can count specialists which make numbers look good without actually lowering class size
- People who are interested or have questions can contact Elaine

January PTA General Membership Meeting

- We discussed doing the Art Reflections Program through the national PTA and there was support for having Lawton participate this year; it will be combined with our January Gen Mem meeting to hopefully increase attendance; Kathryn Ficarra will lead this effort.
- Amy will give an update on the Playground Project at this meeting