

PTA Board Meeting Sept 5, 2014

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

General Business

- Looked over notes from August Board Retreat; not an official Board meeting so we don't need to approve them

Reviewed Events from the past month

- Popsicles on the Playground
 - We received feedback that the families really appreciated this and felt it was a good way to meet other families and Mr. Manza; other schools in the area don't do an event like this
- Doing Business Day
 - Carrie noted that five families took time to email her about how well organized the day was; many people overheard comments in the hallway along the same lines; no complaints about the day have been received
 - There were still many folders to go out to families after DBD; historically there are about 50% of families that attend; some teachers still need to give folders out to students
 - We will keep thinking of ways to make the day better and more efficient
 - After School Activities
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 - Coding was very popular (12 spots and 22 signed up); may also offer coding on Friday if families are interested
 - Running is full but will not need to do lottery
 - First session of clay arts is full but will not need to do a lottery
 - Rhythmic Gymnastics is overenrolled (20 spots and 21 signed up); will see if Laura will allow 21 students
 - Hip Hop has one spot left
 - Watercolor will also go to lottery
 - One or two clubs only have a few people signed up
- Room Parents
 - Hubbard, Matzner, Morfer and Hatley still need room parents. Diane Garland volunteered to be a room parent for Mr. Matzner. Kathryn will try to find someone for Mrs. Hatley

Upcoming Events:

- PTA Gen Mem meeting Oct 2nd from 6:30-7:30pm

- Lisa Johnson volunteered to help plan for childcare; will get 3 babysitters from 6:15 to 7:45;
- Discussed doing Room Parent training as part of the PTA General Membership Meeting
- Discussed that there is generally low turnout of PTA meetings; this is true for all PTAs in the Magnolia/QA cluster especially when parents are happy; we will do a meet and greet with Dorian and also do a popsicle incentive for class with most participation; will also possibly put stickers on kids to remind parents of meeting.
- Lisa, Jen and Carrie will work on meeting materials; want communication about how to be involved in the PTA
- Amy will give an update on the playground project

- Back to School Bash
 - Planning is going well
 - There will be a cash only bake sale with funds used for Islandwood scholarships (last year we needed almost \$3000 for scholarships, some years we only needed \$900)
 - Event price going up to \$6 per person; was on Facebook today; the goal is to cover the cost of the event; Cheryl will update website to reflect \$6; will go out in PTA email on Monday
 - Will be various activities (like lego table, balloon artists, balls etc) for kids
 - Need to make sure coolers are in shed; will need those and tent

- Direct Drive
 - Sept 29-Oct 31st; a parent who is a graphic designer volunteered to help design materials
 - We will need to stuff envelopes for direct drive; Sept 21st at Connie's house; will decide on time; Connie will send out email
 - The goal will be to cover the entire PTA school year budget; Asking for \$145,000 which breaks down into \$337 per kid; we will ask for \$350/kid
 - Parents can opt to do 1, 2 or 4 equal payments
 - Tax ID number and CVC will be added to pledge card
 - Anyone who returns a pledge card will have their name listed (don't have to actually give); class with most participation will get some kind of treat (ie, extra recess)
 - We need someone to keep track of returns b/c parent volunteer who has been doing it has graduated; will look for someone to do it.
 - Katie suggested adding PAYPAL to the brochure b/c some parents preferred it.

- Curriculum night 9/23
 - Will have direct drive materials to hand out and Carrie will ask teachers to say something about why it is important to them (maybe one or two specific things)

- Two visiting Authors

- The PTA helped fund these out of the arts enrichment budget

Budget Update

- Katie provided an update on the budget (KATIE - for some reason I don't have anything specific here - I remember a discussion about what column something was supposed to go in, but I didn't follow it too well - and not sure if it,s relevant for the notes????)

Website Update

- Cheryl provided an update on the Lawton website; much information on the website is outdated; Cheryl is working on updating it; may look at having someone (parent volunteer) make a new website because the current one isn't user friendly to update; presents a problem every time it passes on to a new person

Newsletter Update

- Amy provided an update on the Newsletter; Comcast is blocking the newsletter and some companies aren't getting it (Virginia Mason, some Starbucks); Amy is trying to fix this problem in various ways

Playground Update

- All the paperwork is complete to get \$25,000 grant; Amy is waiting for document to be signed and to have phone conversation with the Director
- Ad will be placed for two weeks in Journal of Commerce seeking a landscape architect firm; Firm would ideally be from neighborhood and cannot be from outside of Seattle
- Interviews will be in October; Interview team should have some board members and someone from school, but there is no prescribed make up of team.
- Goal is to sign contract with chosen firm by Halloween; first public meeting will be in November with firm and neighborhood; others will follow in January and February; in May the final draft will be presented to the school district; Gretchen Dedecker is school district contact.

Principal Update

- Dorian expressed that we were off to a great start; He has really enjoyed meeting parents and feels strongly that Lawton has an amazing staff and great community. He thanked Carrie and Cheryl for smooth start to school year.
- Carrie says Dorian has created a happy staff by doing team building etc.
- Announced that we have high kindergarten numbers due to late registration

Adjourn