**February PTA Meeting Notes**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2014 - 6:30 pm**

**6:30 PM Call to Order** –Lara Gates

**Approval of December Minutes**

* Motion – Toni, second- Sandra. Motion Passed.

**6:35 PM Updates (15 minutes)**

* **Associated Student Body (ASB) Update –** Delina Dilargachew, President – Not in attendance. Steve Gillespie presented. ASB is oriented towards Middle School – meets 3-4 times a week. Put on dances, citizen of the month, etc. Goal is to enhance the experience for the kids
  + We just had a winter dance – fantastic turnout. Our own kids did the Deejaying. Thank you to Cheryl
  + Been working on ideas of how to bring fun stuff down to K-5 grades
    - Ideas: Sock hop, Sleepover (K-5) at school, all school field day (games day at Pioneer Park)
  + Had really successful middle school tours recently
* **Foundation and Centennial Committee–**Julie Morgan
  + Past week have been helping with Larry Wood for fundraising for Imagine Campaign – raised $42K plus an additional $1500 that the PTA received directly
  + Initial Goal - $65K
  + Have access to a broad and challenging curriculum, but need continued support. Makes us one of the best schools in the district. Continue to donate money and /or time.
  + Centennial
    - This year is 100 years since Grant has been opened
    - Lara getting people together in June at a local restaurant
    - Need more stories about what makes Grant great – Email Julie
    - Continuing efforts to branch out to community – working with Mission Hills Business District to get more connections and hopefully more support for the school.
    - Alumni channel on website labeled Alumni – friends and family can go there to tell their stories. Information will go to Julie.
  + Fresh batch of Alumni gear – available for sale tonight
* **Jog-A-Thon Update** -Eric Karpinski
  + Thursday is the big day
  + The Apex team has been in this week to talk about leadership and fundraising
  + Wanted to create motivation and excitement for fundraising
  + We are open to see where we want to go next year. We want to hear from parents
  + We will need to make a decision in the next month on what direction we want to go in 2015
  + If we go back to the old way – we will need more parents to step up. Regardless we will need extra parent help because Eric will be in South America next Spring semester
  + Payments can be made by check or credit card. Checks can be brought to school; payable to Grant PTA
  + This was risk free- This is Apex’s first year. They guaranteed we would make us much in pledges that came to the school that we made last year - $22K
  + Apex Run gets 48%. 26% was spent last year on t-shirts, VIP party, etc. Paying extra 20% to have Apex do all the week
* **Grant Gala Update –** Stacey McReynolds
  + Grant Ballroom at the Prado, Balboa Park
    - We got it less than what they normally charge
  + May 10th, 6-11 pm. Mardi Gras theme
  + Bayou Brothers will play
  + We have great class projects/gifts already. A lot of teachers are doing the experience that they did in the past. Mrs. Harris is doing bowling and geo caching.
  + There is wine tasting experience, laser tag with Mrs. Jimenez, Palm Spring/Mission Beach/Puerto Vallarta Houses are up for auction
  + Surf lessons with Mr. Martocchio
  + We need more stuff. On the grant gala website you can purchase tickets. You can also download Gala donation forms.
* **Thank yous!**
* **Function First Fundraiser!**
  + - Best workouts Lara ever had
    - 4 workouts over the course of the morning
    - Raised $700 for the PTA – 100% of proceeds went to Grant
    - We are going to do it again on a Saturday. More information to come
    - Written up as San Diego’s best 2 years in a row and New York Times
    - Helping sponsoring the jog-a-thon
* **Holly De la Vega- Book Fair**
  + - Spearheaded book fair
    - Different activity everyday. Really brought a lot of excitement and energy to the program
    - Approx $13K in sales. Increase of 35%
    - There will be another one in May. Holly needs volunteers for the May book fair
  + **Stehly Farms**
    - CSA boxes - $5 from every box goes back to the school
    - Last quarter we received $825
    - We are really close to getting our certificate for garden to café. We can put the stuff we grow on the café cart
    - We are doing composting with leftover veggies the kids don’t eat
    - Good news - School district will be going to compostable plates
  + **Frame Station – sponsored Gala banner out front**
* **Misc Updates**
  + St. Patty’s day dinner – at Red Door and Wellington – we will do Corn Beef and Cabbage
  + Vision 20/20 – meeting was this Friday. All encouraged to learn more about the vision of our school district.
    - The video from Cindy Martin is on our school website

**7:00 PM Presentation Items**

* Grant K-8 Band/Orchestra Musical Performance!
  + 13 kids in honor band/orchestra – considered one of the best in our district. They go and audition. It is about 6 weeks. They are considered an honor student and put on their college application. This year, 17 kids auditioned and 13 got in. The honor band/orchestra bands are at rehearsal tonight at CPMA. 6th graders are in elementary program and our middle schools have rehearsal starting next Thursday
  + Big concert – Pt. Loma Nazarene brown chapel. More information to come in Grant Blast. Admission is free.
  + 86 middle school students are in program
  + 100 4th and 5th graders – none of the kids have stopped the program this year.
  + Kids can play in orchestra or band in middle school. One student is doing both. - Its an A/B schedule so it’s every other day
  + 4th and 5th grade program – twice a week – 45 mins and 30 mins
    - Pull out program
    - They can choose their instrument
  + Encouraging kids to do marching band in High School. Pt. Loma HS members came and talked to the intermediate band.
  + San Diego Symphony does a master class with the kids
* 7:25 PM School Budget Update- Lots of Good News to Share!! Don Craig
  + Paving plan – black top is in bad condition. They can’t even paint it anymore.
    - They are coming out this week and they are starting this Friday and complete the recover of the entire playground. The whole project will take the better part of a month to complete
    - Playground will be down next week
    - Due to phase in rebuild plan or lower parking lots are not going to effected.
  + Budget – good budget news year for once.
    - In the last few years, the district was cutting core programs
    - This year we are seeing some light at the end of the tunnel– LCFF money starts coming in (Gov Brown’s new system)
    - Increase in critical allocations including getting a full time vice principal – hired June 30th
    - Counselor fully funded
    - School can cover the ½ music teacher that Foundation has historically covered
    - ½ Spanish teacher will be covered by school funding
    - Covering library aide as well
    - Extras will be funded by PTA
      * Ideas:
        + Extra Spanish time – fund a full time Spanish teacher (start funneling it into elementary grades). Right now discussing doing Spanish at 7th period (7th period ends at 3:25 pm)
        + Science Coordinator position
        + Art programs (elementary programs)
      * Money raised by programs like Gala and Jog-a-thon will go to extra programs – parents need to think about what they want their money to go to
    - There may be better news as the Governor does revises. Very optimistic that we can have a budget we can live within.
    - Nursing is a formula – will probably be same as this year
    - Classroom sizes will be adjusted at primary grades – K – 3rd grade will be 25.5:1 ratio; down from 29 this year
    - The other class sizes will stay the same. We have had large upper grade class sizes. Don’t anticipate that changing
    - Sports teams? We have after school programs and a cross country team
    - Parent idea – take % of money we raise and donate to sister school (less fortunate). Lower income schools get Title 1 funds. PTA will look into doing outreach.
  + Vision 20/20 – New superintendent Cindy Martin has a vision. Goal: every single school in every single community is a quality school. Upcoming years there will be surveying about our schools, curriculum, etc.
    - Our Choice list is approximately 85 kids. We are a school that people that want to go to

**7:40 PM Treasurer and Membership Report**

* Grant PTA Board of Trustees Vacancy
  + Vice President 1 position is open
  + Board meeting and PTA meeting once a month
  + All board members are included in issues that are brought to PTA
  + We are looking for all voices and all people
  + Karen Evenson volunteered for open position. Nominated by Lara Gates. Second by parent. Motion passed

**7:45 PM Roundtable**

* Next month meeting – the media lab is coming to present. They will present a Thank you to PTA and Foundation. Grant was received by Intuit for additional supplies for media tech lab. This class is in line with Pt. Loma HS media theatre.
* Science Olympiad would be interested in presenting
* Cone Zone is fabulous – thank you to all involved
* 3rd Friday of the month – Meet and Greet in Chatio
  + Lara working on plans to make the Chatio more inviting – may be unveiled at next Meet and Greet
* Stacey – Thank you to Lara for all she has done for the school. Fundraising, asphault, etc.

**7:48 PM Adjourn**