PTA Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 18th, 2014

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**6:30 p.m. Call to Order** – Lara Gates

* Membership data spreadsheet is on the back table – please review information for accuracy
* If your name is not on the list you are not a PTA member – please let us know if you think that you should be on the list

**Attendance** – Recognition of Quorum, Trustee Introductions

**Approval of Minutes of previous meeting**

* Motion – Whitney, Second – Steve Gillespie, motion approved; unanimous

**6:40 PM Administrative Updates**

* ASB Report – Karen Farson
  + New elected ASB president was unable to attend
  + Thank you to the PTA for underwriting our MS dance
  + A lot of parents stepped in to help – big success
  + Planning to switch spirit days from Thursday to Wednesday
    - ASB does not meet on Thursday, if another day they can deliver treats
  + 12/5 – ASB wants a movie night. Needs a PTA vote for approval for insurance
  + First Friday in Jan (1/9) – hosting a sock hop – K-5 – more info to come
  + Later in the year – all school/family movie night outside. Sell food. More info to come
  + End of the year – would like to do a junior gala party at the same time as regular gala so parents don’t have to find babysitters
  + Next update from Elizabeth Rabbit – new ASB President
* Principal Update - Don Craig
  + Introduction of new Vice Principal Mike Jakl
    - Currently teaching 5th grade at Hancock Elementary (teaching there last 7-8 years)
    - Strong background in English/second learning and GATE
    - Received admin credential at USD. Did graduate there as well
    - Have been admin designee quite a few times at Hancock over the years.
    - Looking forward to opportunity and excited to start at Grant
    - Has been involved in governance team at prior schools
    - Will start after Thanksgiving break
  + New elementary PE teacher – Eric Smith. Here 4 days a week. Doing all elementary PE.
  + Still trying to hire one special ed teacher – think we found someone. Hoping to get the new person in soon. Current teachers are overloaded
  + Mr. Montes (Spanish teacher) has started to work with elementary students. Goal is to get them in a good place for 6th grade Spanish (Spanish 1)
  + Thank you to Lynn Bachelor (interim VP) – thank you gift presented by Lara Gates
* Treasurer’s Report – Alisa Loigman
  + $89,000 in the bank. A lot of fundraising have been going on
  + Carnival netted $7,800. Thank you to Jen Cavanaugh for heading it up
  + Wine tasting event – hosted in a family’s home – brought in $1,900. Does not include money we will bring in from bottle sales. Minimal cost to PTA – under $500
  + Patio event – brought in $350
  + Amazon Smile – 1 month total - $17 raised. Please purchase using our smile link; holidays are coming up
* Foundation/Imagine Campaign Report – Julie Morgan
  + Julie is president of the Grant Foundation. Foundation is the fundraising arm of the school. Running the imagine campaign. $47K grossed from campaign – Jill Baltan is managing campaign. Our goal is $60K – we are very close. New campaign for Dec – details will be coming soon
  + Tech fund – raised $2K for Mr. Snyder’s after school program – Ardrino program. Happy to support Mr. Snyder’s efforts to bring tech to the curriculum
  + Biggest event for Foundation – 2/28 – Alumni Luncheon – Brooklyn Girl is hosting. If you know alumni or if you are alumni please see Julie. Cost: $50 – lunch and tour of school included.
    - 140 names have been collected for the event
    - FB page – I grew up in Mission Hills
    - FB page – I went to Grant in the 70’s and 80’s – Steve to send page info to Julie

**6:50 PM Presentation Items**

* Jog-a-thon update – Eric Karpinski
  + Final numbers are in – raised $28K (net). Grossed over $30K
  + Huge thank you to the sponsors, the kids, the teachers and the parents
  + For next school year the event will be back in the Spring
  + Jog-A-Thon Thank Yous!!
    - Ms. Farson went above and beyond managing the ASB. She has been handing out prizes out all week.
    - Huge thank you to all the parents that helped with all the pre planning.
    - Party is being set up by parents – kids are excited
    - Gifts presented to Ginger and Karen and Eric from the PTA
* Halloween Carnival Thank yous – Lara Gates
  + Jen Cavanaugh, Dana Lingard, Kirstin Ravoula, Anna Lowe, Lisa Wright, Sarah Ekedal – gifts presented by PTA. Jen, Sarah and Lisa not in attendance
* Membership Update – Lara Gates
  + Some memberships were misplaced in Sept.
  + On the membership list – if highlighted PTA is missing info.
  + Please review list and ensure you are on the list if you paid
  + We are currently doing counts by classroom for ice cream party
  + We committed to 4 classes that get at least 80% - right now the highest class is at 60%
  + Lara to resend list of percentage numbers to teachers
  + Lara to send master list to Karen Farson

**6:56 PM Action Items**

* Motion: sponsor the ASB movie night on Dec 5th
  + Motion: Stacey, second: Steve – motions passes
* Approve Purchase of Halloween Carnival 8’ X 15’ Storage Shed –up to $1800.00
  + This year a lot of items went missing
  + Current storage container is already impacted
  + We looked into storage PODS – cost is $200/month. Too much money
  + Everything needs to be on campus and items are heavy
  + It should be placed by Kids Corner and the portable near gate to park
  + Costco has the cheapest sheds ($300 less than Home Depot)
  + Motion to approve allocation of up to $1,800 for storage shed from the funds of the current Halloween funds. At the discretion of the PTA to how to use the funds: Whitney, Second: Steve: Motion approved.
    - Discussion items:
    - Idea from parent: Look at bottom of shed (platform) so if it needs to be moved by forklift it can
    - The shed will be locked
    - A grant was applied for to utilize rock room for other purposes
    - Current expendables requested by Julie: Alisa report: $6300
    - Added cost of replacements needs to be considered if we don’t get storage.
    - Parent looked up shipping containers – seems to be comparable price.
* Motion to ratify net expenses from 10/14/2014 (last meeting) through 11/13/2014 totaling $12,697.43. Net expenses include checks ranging 3710 through 3740. Expenses include administrative fees, Halloween carnival, PTA insurance, Jogathon, Council Membership Expense, (member remittance), Middle School, PTA Funded programs, and Wine Tasting Event expenses.
  + Motion: Alisa, Second: Kristin. No discussion. Motion approved
* Approve $500 for December 19, 2014 Holiday Sing-A-Long for entire student body. Expenses will include cookies, candy canes and apple cider.
  + Trying to pull all the classes together at 8 am. Ms. Valeska is going to organize a split so everyone will fit. The orchestra is going to perform. Looking to parents for music suggestions
  + Motion: To approve $500 budget for holiday sing along. Motion: Stacey, Second: Alisa. Motion passed
  + Discussion
    - Santa coming to holiday sing along? – decided we will not do it

**7:10 PM Roundtable**

* Alisa Loigman - Quiz bowl – motion: To release $200 budgeted for quiz bowl in December. Motion: Alisa, Second: Anne. Motion passes
* Eric Karpinski - Jog-a-thon party – 6pm – 8 pm – 12/12. Eric looking for volunteers. Cheryl and Erica are organizing
  + Motion to cover the party from an insurance perspective: Lara. Second: Stacey. Motion approved
* Kirstin Ravoula - Net books are inconsistent – they work sometimes. Some don’t hold charge. Kids are super frustrated. No time frame for new hardware, per Don. Each year the district rolls out new technology. 1st grade has new android pads. May need to look at upping our wireless connection. Steve has been working the district about wireless – it checks out that it meets requirements. Classroom teachers know that is not accurate. The district is not wanting to update our wireless
  + Old net books (year 1) were scheduled to be replaced in ’13-’14; didn’t happen. No new date has been scheduled. Rumor is district reappropriated funds to swimming pools at High Schools (no confirmation info is accurate)
  + Mr. Martocchio is very creative – added his own router – now they are supporting it as it is part of the classroom. There may be options to fix wifi issues.
    - Look at Foundation supporting options for technology needs if district won’t support it
    - Julie requested an inventory of technology – a large amount of time is required to collect serial numbers, inventory, etc. Just need qtys and type. Steve will take lead on collecting basic info from teachers
* Anne Anthony - School is closed during thanksgiving week. Skooltopia has camps for your kids. Please go to your school website for more info
* Steve Gillespie – Geo B has been extended to 4th and 5th grade. Will be doing prelims on the 4th. Top 10 will be in Geo B at school on December 18th 2:30pm. The winner takes a test and if score is good goes to California B.
* Laura More- Imagine Campaign – need more parents to participate. Will hook her up with Jill Baltan; join the imagine campaign committee.
  + Ms Farson is willing to work with parents to create a commercial. Will be a great marketing piece – all kid can bring home a copy
  + Opinions from some parents are that it will never change. Others, is that we need to try new things
    - Idea from Parent (Becky) - creation of app. Determine a way to streamline use of app – getting teachers on board
    - We have an app – It has been built per Steve. He was on the planning committee. We chose not to go with it.
    - Current grant website does not have mobile format – mobile format would be beneficial
    - Word of mouth is the best marketing for the PTA.
    - Foundation meeting is on Dec 2nd if you are interested in Impagine campaign. Next meeting is at 6:30 pm in teacher’s lounge
* Next board meeting (Dec 2nd) – reinstating PTA/PTO discussion in that meeting. Review old files, revisit information. If anyone is interested in that conversation please come to meeting.
  + Julie to send foundation meeting notes link to be added to minutes

**7:37 PM Adjourn**