

PTA Executive Board Meeting
January 6, 2009
Minutes

Present: Dr. Karen Crews, Jonathan McHugh, Gerry Gretschel, Rennie Anderson, Karen Kalat, Lucy Smiles, Scott Cheney, Maureen Leventhal, Dan Rosenthal, Elizabeth Levenson, Sharon Masling

Minutes from the December 2, 2008 Executive Board meeting were read and approved with recommended changes.

Principal's Report

- The Chancellor has made proposed changes to DCPS' discipline policy. Dr. Crews will attend the community forum.
- The Chancellor requested that all schools have an MLK community service project. Janney will host a book drive for needy children in Kenya.
- DCPS funded a security monitor, which is now installed opposite the security officer's desk.
- There is construction going on at Oak Crest. Their construction company does not want anyone parking in their parking lot – if anyone does, they will be towed.
- The Chancellor sent out letters to some parents saying that their students' teachers are not highly qualified. This was a computer error in some instances and, in other instances, an administrative technicality that is being remedied. Dr. Crews will let parents know what is going on. Ms. Watkins is meeting with each teacher to go over NCLB certification requirements.

Treasurer's Report

- The budget has been updated, with additional money in the furniture and fixtures line.
- Dan and Gerry will send out reminders to people who have committed to contributing to the student support fund.
- As compared to last year, we're ahead in the amount of money already donated to the student support fund.
- We're also doing well with matching donations
- Dan and Lucy (?) met with the bank to go over PTA accounts. There currently are 7 accounts. Dan and Gerry will get a full list of accounts, who has signing authority, and who else needs signing authority. We need to make sure that the transfer to the next PTA administration goes to all accounts.

New Business

- We need to present the audit committee report at the next PTA meeting and explain the following items:
 - The audit report explains that a Janney staff member has been using her personal credit card to make Janney purchases and has been taking on unnecessary personal risk. The PTA is working on a system (a PTA debit card with a daily limit) so that the staff member does not have to use her personal credit card.
 - The audit report finds that the PTA has too many reserves and recommends that the PTA reduce its reserves. The executive board approves the report and recognizes the audit committee's recommendation. Given the budget uncertainties for next year, the executive board will recommend that next year's executive board address the issue, in close consultation with the SIT and the greater Janney community.

- School reconfiguration
 - Dr. Crews is asking staff what they want to do next year – what do they want to teach – do they want to stay at Janney or go to Deal. The school has developed a leadership team, with representation from each grade level.
 - Dr. Crews is also asking other principals what they're doing about the reconfiguration and has been in contact with early childhood programs to determine our options.
 - Once there are 2 or 3 options, Dr. Crews will present them to the parent community for their input. Dr. Crews is also working with the SIT.

- Brian Hennessy met the 1st African American teacher at Janney and invited her to speak to current Janney students. Dr. Crews will work with the staff to develop an assembly program.

- Fundraising efforts
 - The fundraising committee recommended that we do not have a big fundraising event in the spring. Janney's Wild brought in \$47,000, and we have some upcoming smaller fundraisers (fruit sale, used book sale, raffle). We'll reassess in a month or two if we have to do any other small fundraisers.

- Scott Cartland would like to come and visit and talk about what's going on at Webb-Wheatley.

- Signage
 - DCPS will pay for some signs regarding playground safety, but the SIT and PTA would like more. Karen moved that we transfer \$800 to the Janney outdoors line item for signage. The motion was approved.
 - There was discussion about whether we need a more prominent “Janney Elementary School” sign, but the board decided to table that discussion. The board will ask that the bulletin board on the lower playground be moved closer to the front entrance.

- Bookkeeper computer – The board approved the purchase of a new computer for the Janney bookkeeper.

Action Items

- We should have a reminders section in the newsletter – eg, don’t use the teacher parking lot, don’t leave dogs tied up outside, etc.
- Post the audit committee report on the website and advise parents that we will focus on the report during the next PTA meeting.
- Think about how we want to celebrate/thank departing families.
- Schedule date for Scott Cartland to come and visit.
- Purchase new bookkeeper computer.

The meeting was adjourned.