

Janney PTA Executive Board Meeting  
December 1, 2009

Present at the meeting were: Scott Cheney, Gerry Gretschel, Karen Harris, Malin Kirwin, Elizabeth Levenson, Maureen Leventhal, Norah Lycknell, Fran McCrackin, Jonathan McHugh, Dan Rosenthal, Heather Roy, Diane Schiff, Pippa Trench.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The November 2009 Executive Board meeting minutes were approved.

**Principal's Report:**

- There have been many assemblies recently with more to come before the end of the year.
- Parent conferences are on Monday December 7.
- Library construction has fully begun. The field is available for use, but the rain, not construction, has kept it closed. Some of the construction has been disruptive for classrooms because of noise. The foundation of the Janney building was inspected last week to ensure it is stable for construction.
- DC BAS test scores are available from the teachers or front office. Usually there is a decline in scores after the first test, which is a pretest of items taught in the previous year. This second test is a measure of progress in the current year. Scores increased.
- With the retirement of Ms. Walters, Ms. McClung, the literary instructional coach, will permanently teach a third grade class. Dr. Langford will continue to teach math to the class but will still be an instructional coach for other grades. Norah is holding open office hours to discuss this change with parents and will hold a full parent meeting on December 2.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Updated raw financials are ready but have not yet been reconciled to the budget. They will be ready for the next meeting. Everything is on track for income and expenses. The only item requiring adjustment is the budget for staffing because the currently budgeted funds are not enough. This issue will be addressed in January/February.
- There is still money pledged that has not yet been received.
- Matching grants were received totaling close to \$8K.
- It was noted that we need an accessible packet of information about Janney to send to possible funders listing our mission, vision, how donation money is used etc.

**President's Report:**

Nothing to report.

**LSRT Report:**

- In-depth surveys are being created to send to the Janney community and to teachers to obtain feedback about the school. The goal is to send the survey out before the holiday break.
- An updated school plan is almost complete.

**SIT:**

- The Janney school building was recently awarded an historic designation. Members of the PTA, SIT and Janney community were present at the vote to voice opposition to historic designation at this time because of the delays it might cause in the renovation process.

However, moving forward, the SIT believes we already have a redesign that is compatible with historic designation.

- Redesign plans were to be posted today but will be delayed until Norah meets tomorrow with our OPFM contact and the new project manager. An email address will be provided to allow for community comments and feedback. A newsletter blast will be sent to notify people when the plans are available for viewing.
- Norah is working to schedule a time for a live community meeting to discuss the design process/plans and obtain community feedback. December 15 is a possible date.
- Construction is scheduled to begin in March, not January as previously expected, and continue through December 2010 with the new building opening over the winter break. However, there is still a possibility that the construction phases could be switched with the inside renovations occurring before the outside construction.
- How to use swing space and when to start the inside renovations are topics currently under discussion, as is the plan for incorporating new classes into the larger building space. Deal is not available for swing space and, ideally, we would like to stay at Janney and not move to an external location during the construction.
- Soil testing will occur this coming weekend. The playground will be closed as a result.
- Library construction is schedule to end in late 2010.
- Discussion ensued about ways to minimize student stress and disruption during the construction period – perhaps developing more indoor physical activities to be used when the outdoor play space is reduced. This might be a good use of funds from the small grants program or, perhaps, the PTA could fund an additional P.E. teacher. More discussion is needed. St. Ann's was also mentioned as a possible space, as they have a huge indoor gym.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### **Janney's Wild:**

- Dianne Bock recently chaired a meeting to discuss details related to this fundraiser. A location and date have not yet been set, although April 24 appears to be a viable date. The recommendation is for a live band, more focus on gaming and a larger, more present auction.
- Volunteers are currently being recruited.
- Only beer and wine will be served.

##### **Website:**

- The first draft of a site map is done and will be passed on to Norah for her review.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Extracurricular Activity Programming:**

- Discussion ensued regarding currently available before and after school programming and what changes could be made in the future.
- The desire is to have programming that is 1) more in line with the local school plan and 2) more robust and appropriate in its offerings, while still allowing for appropriate after school down-time for JED kids.
- The JED Board has begun discussing the same topic and Norah will continue conversations with them and the LSRT to develop a focus and plan.
- Additional discussion and planning is necessary.

Meeting adjourned.