

## **Janney PTA Executive Board Meeting October 6, 2009**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

The June 2009 and September 2009 executive board meeting minutes were approved.

### **Carnival Update**

Melissa Meierhoefer provided an update. Carnival is Saturday, October 17. New hours are 2-6pm. Vendors and activities are set. Biggest issue is volunteer recruitment. Ben Page will contact lead room parents for assistance. Jennie Bonney is handling promotion. Tickets will be \$1 each or 24 for \$20. There will be a fee for the custodians. Forrester donated \$500. Will use school bathroom. Exec Committee asked to help staff security desk.

### **Principal's Report**

- Four staff members were laid off due to DCPS budget cuts. Transition process in place for affected classes. Discussion about whether PTA should fund an additional first grade aid.
- Larger discussion needed about the role of the PTA and paying for staff salaries. LSRT needs to discuss where PTA money should go since PTA has been steering away from covering staff salaries.
- PTA to contribute money for teacher appreciation event to help improve and maintain morale. Also, parents should be reminded to let teachers know they are appreciated.
- Student Council elections went smoothly and were run well.
- Politics and Prose Book Fair will be on October 31 and November 1.
- Picture Day will be on October 16.
- A member of the Mystics basketball team will speak at Jamboree on October 8.
- The 4H came to school to work with some classes and was received well.
- Many requests for donation projects have to be sorted through. Norah and LSRT considering a way to filter requests and decided which are appropriate to bring to the larger Janney community.
- Looking at student assessment and communication to parents. Considering having parent/teacher conferences earlier than December.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Support fees are on budget. Pledged money is at goal of 98% of target amount for the year. Fewer people using credit cards saves Janney money in fees but may require more outreach to ensure pledged money is received. 50% of families are participating in the SSF.
- PTA has insurance policy of \$1 million to cover all PTA sponsored events, on and off campus, if there are no mechanical rides and alcohol. Special rider needed for these items.

### **President's Report**

- Norah will meet with the parent Chair of the JED Board to discuss issues related to the location of the ice cream truck on the Janney campus. This is not a PTA issue.
- Besides fixing the sprinkler system, no money was put into upgrading the field this summer because of impending construction needs for staging. PTA is committed to restoring the field when construction is complete and is doing its best to make the field available during construction. A construction fence is schedule to go up on October 19. Norah will speak with GDS about their previous commitment to allow Janney use of their field.

- Work being done to ensure all new plantings are saved for future use –either replanted until construction ends or do an exchange with Case. The butterfly garden will be hosted by St. Columbas until it can be moved back to Janney.
- Mary Cheh’s office did a traffic study. Conclusions will be released on Friday.

### **LSRT Report**

- General discussion has focused on budget cuts. Will start discussion of local school restructuring plan, school values and evaluation against those values. Norah has created a rubric to guide this review.
- Conversations with the PTA for next year’s budgeting are in process.

### **SIT Report**

- More information about construction will be available soon – after 4 specific issues are resolved with all involved parties. The October 13 meeting has been postponed to allow time for the architects to address changes.
- The SIT has issued a statement opposing the historic designation of Janney until after the modernization since designation prevents any substantial demolition or alteration of the premises. The SIT feel requirements of the existing law are sufficient to ensure the building keeps its historical work without causing additional legal obstacles that might occur after historical designation is made.
- A newsletter blast will be sent to the Janney community with this information.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Janney's Wild will most likely be chaired by Dianne Bock as its team leader. The suggestion was made to just do beer/wine, have a DJ instead of a band and do it on a Saturday not a Friday. We would again like to use the Chevy Chase Women’s Club but other potential locations are being scouted. Possible dates are March 13 and April 24. This event netted \$48000 last year.
- A discussion of after school programming was tabled.

### **New Business**

- Need more specific guidelines for dissemination of information to the Janney Community through the THT, online newsletter and website. Current guidelines are open to broad interpretation. Norah gives final approval of all information included in the THT.
- Karen Harris, Lucy Smiles and Scott Cheney will develop a draft set of guidelines and present them at the next meeting.
- There is a meeting of the Grants Committee next Friday to brainstorm issues that might come up in the application process. Allison Scuriati will develop a student version of the grants proposal request form which will go home in the THT. Parents will be required to review and approve all grant requests coming from students.

The next meeting of the PTA Executive Board will be on November 3 at Rennie Anderson’s house.

Meeting adjourned.