

Janney PTA Executive Board Meeting September 1, 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

Welcome from Co-President Scott Cheney

Approval of Minutes

June 2009 executive board meeting minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Treasurers' Report

- Budget review. Budget ran a deficit for the first time. The band and musical are difficult to budget for. No money was spent on soccer field maintenance (more on this under "SIT Report").
- The SSFs ended up coming in just below budget. \$92,000 is already pledged for SSFs this year (50%). Do we need to recruit a new audit committee?

Principal's Report

- Janney has had a good first week and two days, with lots of positive energy from both teachers and students. Communication among all parent groups—SIT, LSRT, PTA—will be very important. The Local School Plan is being worked on now, as well as ways to incorporate all parents and turn the Janney community "outwards."
- Janney did not meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) last year. Proficiency goals grow each year; special education proficiency especially needs attention. Consequences can include losing teachers and Janney's autonomy over its budget.
- Discussion of the time allotted for lunch. Ways to make sure students eat include encouraging them to eat before going outside for recess; having them snack in the afternoon; imposing five minutes of silence during the lunch period.
- Discussion of how students move from one assessment level to another. Do assessments keep kids at their same level, instead of helping them to move to higher levels? Focus should be on "skills," not subject level. Levels cannot be stagnant; more frequent assessment keeps changes in levels going.

LSRT Report

- Principal Lycknell discussed how she will create the Local School Plan, keeping communication open between parent groups. An update on the LSRT will be in the newsletter.
- The LSRT is charged with having two public meetings (vs "open" where only members participate) a year. These are not scheduled yet, but will probably be in fall and spring.

SIT Report

- The renovation is currently at the schematic design stage (the first of four steps); next will be design/development. The architectural/engineering firm has been chosen. The new Local School Plan may call for amending the educational specs.
- Historical designation. This will definitely impact the design and modernization. The next meeting will be held October 22; comments should be sent by October 10 to your ANC rep and/or Mary Cheh. The ANC will vote before the meeting.
- Soccer field. The irrigation system was fixed over the summer. The library construction is possibly going to be staged on the field, so it was patched instead of resodded. After both the library's and Janney's construction, the soccer field's needs will be reviewed.

New Business

- Recognition of past presidents Lucy Smiles and Rennie Anderson.
- Hosting schedule for executive board meetings.
- Fundraising. Janney's biggest fundraiser is the SSF, followed by Janney's Wild. Scott and Jonathan have created seven committee categories. Discussion of how to get volunteers where we need them and how to reach out to new families. Volunteers from the SSF forms will be given to committee chairs at their Sept 22 meeting.
- Discussion of Health/Safety Committee proposal.
- Fall Carnival. The Fall Carnival will be open to the entire community (the picnics are just for Janney families) and will be modeled after the Turtle Park Mayfair. Student Council will have a photo booth. Discussion of how to decide who can have a booth. Room parents will be asked to be involved. The fundraising goal is \$5,000-10,000.
- Discussion of whether or not to hold a Fruit Sale. The fruit company has said the sale could be held between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Sally Foster sales can now be handled completely online. It could be featured in the newsletter and then people can order by putting in Janney's code.
- After-school programming. Discussion of how to select programs and provide oversight for them; does this fall more under the purview of the LSRT? After-school tutoring will be starting. Discussion of the need for building use agreements/ insurance riders; it would be useful to have a person who would handle building use agreements.
- Grants program update. Pippa distributed drafts of the description and application form; please provide feedback to her by the end of the week.
- Full PTA meeting added for November 10.
- Discussion about TB tests and background checks needed for DCPS volunteers, including student teachers, high school students, and OASIS volunteers. Currently, parent volunteers are exempt.

Meeting adjourned.