

## **Janney PTA Executive Board Meeting**

**January 5, 2010**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

The December 2009 executive board meeting minutes were approved with changes.

### **Principal's Report, Norah Lycknell**

- Results of the parent conference survey. The response rate was not high: 16%. Parents wanted more time for their conferences; for the next conferences, each slot will be 30 minutes, with the first 15 minutes to be used as time to review student work. The possibility of electronic sign-up will be investigated. Comments about very positive experiences were received; these could be used for modeling.
- Topics for the Principal Coffee to be held January 12 at 8:10 a.m.: What are the expectations for each grade level? Is DC's curriculum comparable to those of other school districts? (DC's standards and assessments rank among the most rigorous in the country.) Extra resources for parents to use to help their children. Discussion of what forum would be best for addressing concerns like these.
- Shana Zallman is leading a community service event for MLK Day to benefit Thrive DC, Washington Animal Rescue League, and the Rainforest Action Network.
- Recess. When the temperature is below 32 degrees, DCPS policy calls for students to stay inside.
- Jamboree. Weekly themes are being introduced. This week's theme: greeting and talking to new people. A more advanced paw print system for older students is in the works.

### **LSRT and SIT Reports**

- The LSRT budget process has started (three months earlier than in previous years). The budget is based on money we think we will receive; it may have to be revised when actual numbers come in. The budget work has delayed the survey work. PTA budget considerations can be addressed after the LSRT has figured out whether items such as teacher positions can be incorporated into the school budget.
- Enrollment numbers were received yesterday. There will be three Pre-Ks next year. Over the summer, the first floor of the existing building will be remodeled to accommodate these classrooms.
- Results from a DCPS survey given last year were received; they reflected last year's issues.
- April 16 is the date for actual construction to begin on Janney's modernization.
- The SIT is developing a FAQ packet, which will address how students will be involved in the modernization process.

### **Treasurers' Report**

- Matching grants are a little behind. Other income is on target.
- The budgeting process coming sooner could be a good thing. Last year, money was added for technology, furniture, supplies, and not as much has been spent as expected. More money may be needed for supplies, professional development.
- Add space on the Janney website to discuss how PTA money is spent? Discussion of how much information should be given to parents and whether directives about how the PTA can give money to schools need to be considered. All e-board members are to send one item to Scott re: what the PTA does for the school.

### **Presidents' Report**

- Some inscribed bricks from the last brick drive have been unearthed. Consensus is they should be installed in the front walkway as intended. Possibly ask Kalos Construction to do this?

### **Unfinished Business**

- Janney's Wild. The date and venue are still to be decided. Big auction items are needed.
- Extracurricular activities. Discussion of what entity will spearhead and fund new programs. Direction will be toward more structured activities that align with the LSRT's goals.

### **New Business**

- Discussion of acquiring a computer server for Janney. At this point there is a \$4,000 option and a \$9,000 option. Next meeting a vote will be held.

Meeting adjourned.