

Janney PTA Executive Board Meeting

March 3, 2010

Present at the meeting were:

Rennie Anderson, Gerry Gretschel, Karen Harris, Malin Kerwin, Elizabeth Levenson, Maureen Leventhal, Norah Lycknell, Fran McCrackin, Jonathan McHugh, Heather Roy, Diane Schiff, Pippa Trench

Approval of Minutes

The February 2010 executive board meeting minutes were approved with changes.

Principal's Report, Norah Lycknell

- The out-of-boundary list was received today. There was a very large number of applicants. Janney families enroll in May. Our numbers put us close to getting an additional staff member.
- Upcoming events include the Scrabble tournament on March 20.
- It's teacher evaluation time. A topic of discussion is the pulling of small groups and how to make them useful. Janney is likely to have a new literacy coach soon; the candidate has lots of good experience.

Treasurers' Report

- February was a quiet month. The musical brought in \$7,400.
- Line item 509, PTA salaries and taxes, will have to be revised in the next budget.
- Discussion of whether the redesign of the Janney website will be pulled from this budget. The development people are donating their time. No one yet has been found to donate design time; \$1,500 should cover it. Also needed is about \$400 per year for hosting.
- Before leaving, Rona Walters arranged for an artist to do a project with the three first grade classrooms through the Arts Education Initiative. Discussion of whether we should move forward with this project, which would total \$2,500. Per Norah, it is possible that money is still available from AEI itself.

Presidents' Report

- Discussion of how to increase attendance at general PTA meetings. Next week's theme is the modernization. Other possible themes are the assessment process, extracurricular activities. Advertise on the front door and the corner sign.
- Eight people attended the Principal's Coffee re: the modernization. The principal will hold monthly check-ins. Construction will start in three weeks.

LSRT Update

- Surveys are being reviewed; the next meeting will be held on Wednesday. Discussion of the policy for spending money on field trips, for both chaperones and students.

- We will get a new music demountable in September. The music and JED demountables will be located on the field after spring break. The west side of building will be blocked off. Discussion of how egress will be constructed for Ms. Morgan-William's classroom.
- The back fence will be closed if/when the parking lot is turned into play space. Parking will need to be found to make up for the loss of the parking lot. Per the project manager, play equipment will be moved to the field. Parents and kids are being alerted to changes that will be in place after spring break. Possibly have the project manager attend a PTA meeting?

Unfinished Business

- Janney's Wild will be held April 16th at the House of Sweden. The caterer and the band are still to be settled (HüsBand is in the running). There will be a small auction. Parking will be minimal; taking the bus and carpooling will be encouraged. Predicted cost: \$75 per person; the food cost is higher since we have to use an approved caterer. Discussion about possibly selling bricks; giving invitations to incoming Pre-K families when they register; offering a special Janney item to donors. In the past, teachers and staff have attended for free.
- Advertising for the Plant Sale, headed by Sam Corrigan, will start in the next two weeks.
- Overview of Safe Routes to School. Goal is to make drop-off safer. Parking will no longer be allowed on Albemarle; it will be a drop-off zone only. Possibly move the crosswalk from the top of the blind hill east about 50 yards? Walking to school and carpooling will be encouraged. Other ideas include Walk and Roll cards (when you fill your punch card, you get a prize) and "walking school buses."

New Business

- Discussion of whether a policy needs to be established about what can go in the display case. Following the rule about whether the item(s) can be brought to school seems appropriate. Possibly have students include a paragraph about their collection and why they wanted to display it.
- Discussion about inviting a nutritionist to speak at a PTA meeting. During the third week of May, there will be a Take Your Parent/Friend to Lunch Day to address some of the concerns about the lunch room that have come up lately.
- Discussion of alternative outdoor spaces for use during the modernization. St. Ann's will allow PK-1 classes to use their playground. The AU field off Yuma is a possibility. Fort Reno is used by Wilson from 3-6 pm; it may be available during the day. GDS may allow use of their gym and garden area during the day. Turtle Park fields can be used Mondays and Thursdays. Fort Bayard (run by the National Park Service) may also be an option.
- Fourteen Janney Stoddert teams used the Janney field for practice. JED will not be able to handle soccer practice transportation. Stoddert coaches should go to their division commissioners to see what field assignments they get; coaches can also go to DPR to get their own permits (not likely to succeed). Jasmeet will attempt to help too.

Meeting adjourned.