

PTA Meeting April 14, 2009

The minutes from the February 9th PTA meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Dan Rosenthal)

- We're a little behind in fundraising; we're well ahead in matching grants. The spring picnic and raffle are coming up; the raffle is our last fundraiser of the year. We're under budget on expenses (as we generally are this time of year).
- The Executive Board will be meeting to come up with a budget for next year – it will be presented at the May meeting and finalized at the June meeting.
- DCPS will be picking up the salaries of 3 aides previously funded by the PTA.
- We want to make sure we have enough funds in the budget to support whatever will be needed over the course of the modernization.
- We want to bring more parent and teacher involvement into the budget process up front. We're considering some type of granting cycle, where we would look for 10-20 small to medium ideas.

President's Report (Rennie Anderson)

- The LSRT and PTA Executive Board elections are coming up. The LSRT election will be on May 1st. The PTA Executive Board election will be on May 12th. The nominating committee will come up with ideas of people who should run for the PTA Executive Board.
- The used book sale will be on April 25th.
- The spring picnic and raffle will be on May 1st.
- The PTA hopes to be a convener/forum for conversation about issues affecting the school, even if not directly in the PTA's purview.

New Business

GW Green School Partnership (Randy Caruso)

- GW and Janney are creating a green school partnership. GW will run an environmental education workshop for two Saturdays in a row. The program is targeted toward 4th and 5th graders. Its purpose is to educate kids about the basic science underpinning popular environmental issues, such as recycling, sustainable life styles, global warming, and energy.

New SIT/LSRT configuration (Karen Kalat)

- There is a new SIT and LSRT configuration.
- The new SIT will provide advice on Janney's upcoming modernization.
- The current SIT will become the LSRT (Local School Restructuring Team) and will serve as an advisory committee to the principal on the local school plan, curriculum, etc.

- The old SIT was charged with forming the new SIT (facilities committee). The members were nominated by the old SIT and reviewed by Dr. Crews for final invitation.
- The upcoming elections to the LSRT are for 3 positions, each of which serves for a 2 year term.
- Currently, there is no charge for the LSRT. A parent requested development of a charter that lays out the new LSRT's responsibilities.
- A parent requested that the local school plan be posted on the Janney website.

The New SIT (Jonathan McHugh)

- Mayor Fenty announced that he will move up the modernization of Janney to this year. It's on a fast track and will happen within 2 years.
- In light of that, the new SIT was created to advise the city of the community's views about how to go about modernizing Janney.
- The first meeting was on April 7th. Members of the OPEFM team provided an overview of the modernization process.
- The SIT will be meeting on its own on April 23rd and with city representatives on May 5th.
- OPEFM hopes to have a completed design by the end of this year, with groundbreaking in January 2010.
- The SIT will make recommendations regarding whether students can swing in space. The challenge is making all the necessary changes in the timeframe the Mayor set out.
- A parent asked what the process is for parent input to the new SIT. That will be addressed at the upcoming SIT meeting.

Outdoor recess

- Some parents have asked the administration to set out what the school policy and philosophy is about Janney recess.
- The PTA agrees that this is an important issue that hasn't been addressed in recent years. This is not, however, a PTA policy. The PTA Executive Board will ask the new LSRT to look at the issue.

Pre-K lottery and enrollment

- Dr. Crews wrote up new policies regarding the pre-K lottery and enrollment. Unfortunately, Dr. Crews was not able to attend the PTA meeting. Any questions about the lottery and enrollment process should be directed to Dr. Crews.

5th and 6th grade graduation (Lisa Wackler/Diane Torresen)

- This is a unique year for Janney, as we are losing 6 classes at Janney (net loss of 3).

- There are lots of traditions for the 6th grade (e.g., trip to Camp Letts, promotion ceremony, party). There will be new traditions for the 5th grade (e.g., trip to Valley Mill, a “celebration,” etc.)

Peer mediator program (Maureen Leventhal)

- 34 4th, 5th, and 6th graders were recently trained as peer mediators.
- The training happens once a year – hopefully they can do it early in the school year next year
- Mediation generally happens at the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade level.
- Parents expressed the desire that basic conflict resolution skills/reframing should be taught to all Janney students, not just peer mediators.
- A parent asked about the bullying policy. Students are getting trained on how to respond to teasing and bullying.

PTA Nominating Committee

There was a motion to elect Lisa Wackler, Jenny Bonney, and Kate LaGuarda as members of the 2009 nominating committee. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

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