

Janney Elementary School PTA Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 7:30 pm

Welcome and introduction of new PTA Co- Presidents, Scott Cheney and Jonathan McHugh. Note that kids are welcome at the meeting; however, on-site babysitting is also available.

The minutes from the June 9, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Reports

Principal's Report (Norah Lycknell)

- Collecting information about the school as an ongoing process (meetings with stake holders, review of achievement data, class observation, etc). Expect more surveys soon.
- Developing a Local School Plan, as required by DC, in conjunction with the Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT.) It will be used to set short term and long term goals/plans, re-define progress. It will incorporate Janney values and be used as a communication tool.
- We've had a good start to the school year, setting procedures/ routines, moving into academics.
- The floor was opened to questions: 1) test scores, levels of proficiency and how Janney compares to other schools nationwide, 2) the Jamboree and 3) professional days.
- Six professional days are set district-wide for school year. DC has a new teaching/planning assessment framework and a new teacher evaluation system. The first professional day will address the evaluation system. Topics for subsequent training days have not yet been decided.
- Introduction of Ms. Sell, the new Assistant Principal.

Treasurer's Report (Dan Rosenthal)

- PTA funds support activities not funded by DCPS (band, musical, etc.) and infrastructure costs (furniture, text books, some staff salaries etc.).
- Most funds come from the Student Support Fee. 40% of the school families have donated; goal is 100% participation at any amount. Please donate.
- Two major fund raisers this year will be the Fall Carnival and Janney's Wild,
- Budgeting this year has been kept conservative with a cash reserve slightly larger than recommended by the audit committee because of unknowns with the impending rebuild and possible need for support money.
- Shop through the Janney home page; companies will donate to Janney at no cost to the buyer.
- Many employers offer matching donations. Contact Dan Rosenthal for assistance.
- Last year's actuals and the current budget will be posted on the Janney website.

President's Report (Scott Cheney)

- The new Executive Board was introduced: Faculty Reps = Maureen Leventhal, Fran McCrackin and Heather Roy; Co-Vice Presidents = Karen Harris and Pippa Trench. Co-Treasurers = Dan Rosenthal and Gerry Gretschel; Co-Secretaries = Elizabeth Levenson and Diane Schiff; Immediate past Co-Presidents = Rennie Anderson and Lucy Smiles.
- School Improvement (SIT) Team advises/represents the school on the modernization project.
- Ceremonial groundbreaking of the library is 9/23 at 10:00 (time is subject to change based Mayor Fenty's schedule) with construction anticipated to begin within two weeks thereafter.
- Initial construction will rebuild the retaining wall. Part of the soccer field will be used, causing a temporary loss of 30 feet of the field. This will be reduced as quickly as possible. Part of the south field may then be used for the rest of construction. Janney is in talks with the library concerning payment for re-sodding the field post construction. The impact of construction on field use is yet unknown. Construction should last 10-12 months. Plans are available on-line.

- The Fall Carnival is scheduled for 10/ 17 from 3-7 pm (rain date 10/ 18) and will be open to the entire community, not just Janney families. There will be crafts and activities for all ages. Each event will be assigned to a class with room parents responsible for staffing their assigned activity. Additional volunteers will also be needed to for clean up/ set-up/ promotion.
- A fruit sale is a new fundraiser this fall. Contact Scott Cheney to help coordinate this event.

Unfinished Business

There is no unfinished business at this time.

New Business

Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT) Report (Cheryl Ohlson)

- The LSRT is chaired by Cheryl Ohlson and has both parent and faculty representatives.
- The LSRT is working with Principal Lycknell to develop a Local School Plan based on the effective schools framework developed by DCPS. The LSRT will send out a survey soon to allow Janney community members to provide input into plan development. Updates on the progress of the LSRT will be included in the on-line newsletter.

School Improvement Team (SIT) Report (Jonathan McHugh)

- During library construction, the sidewalk on Albemarle St. will close; curb lane will be used for the walkway.
- Mary Cheh's office has been working with us on the number of crossing guards present during library construction. DDOT is sending safety experts to analyze the walking routes to our school and will identify if more crossing guards/crosswalks are needed.
- At Back-to-School night on 9/17 a rep from the DC Office of Facilities Mgt. will be answer questions regarding the Janney modernization project. There will not be a formal presentation.
- Prior to finalizing a design for the Janney modernization, there will be an open community meeting for comments.
- Breaking ground at Janney is expected in late January. They are about 2 weeks behind schedule.
- The Historical Preservation Review Board meets on 10/ 22. The SIT will soon decide its position regarding the historical designation status and its impact on the modernization project.
- Phase 1 of modernization, external construction/additions to the building, will include the majority of the work. During phases 2 and 3, construction to internal space, students will swing in and out of completed areas. They will not be moved outside school grounds.
- An environmental health team will work on site to review/mitigate any possible health risks.

Grant Application Process (Pippa Trench)

- The PTA has developed a new process for distribution of small grants, up to about \$750.
- Approved projects, events, activities etc. will need to benefit the school and/or the Janney community and fit within the mission of the school.
- Events can occur within/outside of school boundaries; can benefit a single class/entire school.
- Proposals can come from teachers, students and parents but if the proposal affects school/classroom time, a teacher must sign off.
- Grant requests will be reviewed by a team of members of the PTA, LSRT, teachers and parents.
- October 1 is the first submission deadline. Decisions will be made within one month.
- Additional information regarding the process will be distributed next week.

The next general PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.