

Janney Elementary School PTA Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2010, 7:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Scott Cheney at 7:30 p.m.

Reading and Approval of Minutes from PTA Meeting of December 2009

Minutes approved.

Principal's Report, Norah Lycknell

A. Construction

- DC CAS testing starts next week for grades 3-5. Teachers are currently teaching to a core set of broad standards set by DC. Students are being taught what the standards mean. A separate conversation will be held about teaching appropriate testing strategies.
- Next year a new testing system will be adopted based on a group out of Massachusetts where testing will occur every six weeks and be cumulative. Current tests look at all items to be taught in a year and, thus, ask questions on items kids have not yet learned.
- The upper playground equipment has been moved to the field and is working out well in this new location. Older students continue to play on the lower playground while it remains open. In May, the construction crews will start fencing off the lower playground space and employee parking will be moved offsite. Some of lower playground equipment is not movable, but those items that are will be moved to the parking lot area. After the renovation, new playground equipment for the older kids will be added, as well as a new set of play equipment for K and Pre-K (which will be separate from other play areas.) The metal play equipment will be moved to another DCPS location since we will not have a need for it.
- Norah is working on creating different lunch and recess schedules to better accommodate play area usage. The third grade will be split and eat at different times which will give younger students a longer lunch period.
- We expect to receive permits in mid-July to start the construction of the external structure. During the summer there will be a lot of work inside and outside of the building.
- The construction team has been very reliable thus far. We are very happy.
- There will be more landscaping to create more shade and there will be tarps over the corners of the fences to create nooks for shade.

B. LSRT

- The District is currently in conversations about how to more effectively use this committee in the future. Someone from the Chancellor's office will be attending the next LSRT meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Dan Rosenthal

- The budget for this year needed to be revised because of under-budgeting in some areas and the need for additional funds in others – but with a net impact of zero. However, we still expect to end the year with a \$28,000 deficit.
- The amended budget was approved.

President's Report, Scott Cheney

- Janney's Wild will take place this Friday. It will be a gaming party with food, drink and a band.
- The spring picnic and raffle is May 21. It will be on-site even with construction.

- The nomination process for next year's new Executive Committee members is now open. The Co-President positions are filled (the current Co-Vice Presidents will be filling those spots.) Each Vice-President serves one year as President and one year as Past President.
- Open spots include: 2 Vice-Presidents, 1 Treasurer and 1 Secretary (The Treasurer and Secretary positions are for two years with one of each rotating off each year), members of the Audit Committee (responsible for overseeing accounting and finance.)
- A slate of individuals to fill open positions will be presented at the next PTA meeting.
- The bylaws require the appointment of a Nominating Committee to fill Executive Board positions. Kate LaGuarda, Angela Johnson and Stephan Fatsis are recommended for this committee. These nominations were approved.
- A slate of individuals to fill open positions will be presented at the next PTA meeting.

Unfinished Business

- Dan Rosenthal presented the proposed budget for next year. We will have more students next year because of the additional Pre-K class which will result in increased expenses.
- An additional fall fundraiser has been added for next year with a total annual fundraising goal of \$300,000.
- On the expense side, we are trying to fill in the gaps where DCPS can't support the school in the way it used to (this changes from year to year.)
- Although we have between \$150-\$200,000 in reserves, we do want to operate without a deficit when we can so that we have the reserves for larger, more meaningful expenditures (especially related to construction.) Also, the Audit Committee recommends having at least enough reserves to cover at least 1 year of salaries to which we are committed.
- The draft 2010-2011 budget will be presented at the next meeting for final approval. Prior to that it will be posted on the website for review.

New business

- Pippa Trench presented Safe Routes to School. The primary objective is to get kids to school in a safe and healthier environment by reducing traffic congestions around the school. The new drop off system seems to be working well. There are some issues with parents parking in the wrong places but the main issues are keeping parents in their cars and moving cars forward in the drop off line.
- DDOT sponsors this program and will give small prizes to be used as incentives to encourage students to walk and bicycle to school.
- The next stage of program development will address afternoon pickup and the congestion and safety issues caused by cars looking for parking and/or their specific child.
- One proposal is to make the front a no parking zone during pick up as it is for drop off. Pippa would like to solicit additional ideas from the Janney community to streamline the pick up process.
- Because of construction, all students, except K and pre-K will be dismissed from the back of the school starting on May 1.

Adjourned