

Janney Elementary School Parent Teacher Association
PTA Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Co-Presidents Karen Harris and Pippa Trench called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Reading and Approval of Minutes from PTA Meeting of March 8, 2011.

Minutes approved.

Principal's Report, Norah Lycknell

- Final student assessments will be done at the end of May. Teachers will discuss results end of June.
- The last week of school will be spent mostly on packing. The Packing Curriculum Committee meets next week to discuss the best way to incorporate the kids so they feel part of the closing of the old building. The Packing Committee is organizing the packing process. Volunteers are needed. Contact Ann Beumel if available (.ann.beumel@dc.gov.)

President's Report, Pippa Trench

- The Auction is this weekend. There will be live music and free parking. This is the main Spring Fundraiser.
- The PTA Executive Board has openings for the 2011-2012 school year. A Search Committee was convened to find people to fill open seats. All are welcome to put their names on the roster. Currently following people are on the roster: Tracey Scarrow and Alexis Comrack for Co-Vice President; Melissa Meierhoefer for Co-Treasurer; Jennie Bonney for Co-Secretary. If more names are added to the roster by May 25, then there will be an election leading up to the June meeting where the candidates are accepted per the By-Laws.
- Arts Integration Program: Funded by the DC Arts Commission and the PTA. Artist Kevin Reese will work with the 5th grade class to create a mobile that will be installed in the new school building. Next week there will be an assembly with acrobats from China.
- The Spring Picnic and Raffle will be on May 20. Volunteers will be needed to help run the picnic. Room parents will sell raffle tickets at \$25 each. Prizes include 2 iPods, 2 iPads and \$500 gift certificate to Bloomingdales. Any child in a band who wants to play at the picnic is welcome.
- An enrichment survey was sent out by email to get feedback on the spring enrichment program.

LSAT Report, Norah Lycknell

- The LSAT will field all study proposals received by the school. Majority decision will decide Janney participation in the study.
- There was discussion about the PTA budget and use of funds at the last LSAT meeting.
- Norah is currently hiring many new positions to meet the school's growing needs.

SIT Report, Norah Lycknell

- Construction is on track for completion before school starts in August. Landscaping around the soccer field will probably not be done until early September.

- Sidewalks in front and around the school may be closed while replacing water main lines. Trying to get this to occur outside of school hours

Budget 2011, Sherry Cohen

- The PTA has kept a reserve in the budget to cover items not covered by DCPS for the renovation.

- Discussion of three budgets:

- 1) Current Operating Budget for this year to end of March: Net income is where we expected for student support fees and dues. Fundraising is less than expected but earnings from the auction are not yet realized. We have under spent expenses to date, but expect this to increase toward the end of the year after the DCPS budget is spent down.
- 2) Proposed Budget for 2011- 2012: This budget is separate from the Capital Budget but they work together. Expecting a year-end reserve of \$60-70k that can be used for improvements in the new building. This budget contains year-to-year expenses/earnings. Discussion of how the budget was developed and explanations of changes from last year.
- 3) Proposed Capital Budget for 2011-2012: This budget contains, in general, one-time expenditures for the new building and other items such as the garden and a weather bug (weather station on roof of school to provide real time data to be used in classroom learning.) The LSAT has walked through this budget to determine how to best utilize the reserve. The major theme is to provide new materials in classrooms to enhance learning, such as iPads, and to enhance professional development about how to use new technology in the classroom. There will also be a building energy monitoring system to track how we use energy and water in our building and the installation of an indoor transverse climbing wall in the new multi-purpose room.

- Part of the upcoming Auction will have a "Fund A Need" time where the auctioneer will ask for donations for specific items, such as new playground equipment.

- There will be an upcoming Principal's Coffee to discuss capital, gain feedback and answer questions.

Special Presentation: Janney Garden Project – Shana Zallman, Laurie Young and Emily Gustafsson _

- Plans for the new garden will be displayed at the school on Friday.

- Ms. Young is currently developing a science program related to the garden. Curriculums at every grade will be integrated so that there is a garden connection for everything being taught in the classroom.

There will be a specific garden space for each grade.

- The garden will also tie into the Health Food Project, clubs and enrichment. There will also be a big outdoor gathering space with covered areas and movable benches, as well as two butterfly gardens, fruit trees, rain barrels (to be used for irrigation of the garden) and composting.

- Volunteers are needed to help run the garden.

- Whole Foods has agreed to partner with Janney to donate materials to build a shed and work with students on projects such as canning vegetables grown in the garden.

The current Capital Budget for the garden is \$20k but the total estimated budget is still being developed.

Meeting adjourned.