

ACCESS PTA General Meeting May 11, 2016 7pm

7pm- introductions

7:05 Treasurer's Report- Abbie Rankin

Currently the bank account has \$36,000, much of which will get spent soon in reimbursement. If all the potential reimbursement requests come in \$10,000 will remain.

Current requests for funds:

Abbie suggested we add a yearbook line item to the budget; this would primarily be so that the PTA can act as a "banker" for their fund raising efforts (collecting money from families and then paying for the bill, not providing PTA funds). A motion was made to do so, seconded, and passed.

Run for the Arts: David Fikstad would like to have an ice cream party for the 3 top classes, which would cost about \$100, and which can come out of the social budget.

In March we passed a motion to add \$400 to the 8th grade class end of the year events fund, which didn't actually get added at that time. A motion was made to add that \$400, which was seconded and approved.

There is a request for \$500 for emergency preparedness supplies, including mylar blankets and ponchos. Next year all kids will be asked to bring a "comfort kit" which is a baggie with a photo of their family, a "fidget" (a small toy), and a list of contacts. Each family will also be asked to bring in \$10. They would like to purchase an extra bucket for each classroom to put the comfort kits in as well as a poncho and a mylar blanket for each child. The \$500 would also help replace the water and energy bars for next year. A motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Next year's 8th graders would like to plan an out of state trip at the end of the year, likely a 3 day trip to Catalina Island, which would be \$1,000 per child. There would need to be a \$1,500 deposit put in by the end of May, which is refundable until February of next year. Mr. Garcia would be willing to tie the trip in to the life science curriculum for next year. This is a trip that Sunnyside Environmental does, and it has an educational component. It was asked how the class would fund raise for this, and more Camp Atom events would be done as well as possibly a go fund me campaign and others. The goal would be for all students to be able to go without interfering with Foundation and PTA fundraisers. It was suggested that the kids focus on raising funds from outside of the ACCESS community, as there are already many requests for contributions within the community. Parents raised the concern that children not be left out, and pointed out that it will be difficult for many families who are not on free and reduced lunch too. Heather Kent is talking to some contacts at Richmond about their 8th grade trip to Japan and how they manage to do scholarships. It was asked what we have spent historically on the 8th grade trip. Last year and this year the 8th grade did an overnight at Mazama Lodge, which is \$1,500 for the whole class, of which \$400 was paid for by the PTA, and they also spend a day at Oaks Park which the 8th grade raised funds for themselves.

A parent asked if we could look at the budget for next year first before deciding to support the 2017 8th grade trip fund, to see if it would likely be sustainable (before setting a precedent). Abbie had a proposed budget for next year, and she shared her suggestion to make funding the trips for 4th and 8th grade more uniform by budgeting \$500 for each and reducing the equity fund to \$700 (the past two

years under \$200 has been spent out of \$1,000 budgeted each year for the equity fund). A parent asked about funding for outdoor school, but outdoor school is covered by parent donations and the MESD, and the PTA and school don't need to contribute, as all 6th graders get to participate. Abbie then reviewed the rest of the draft budget for next year. A rough draft was sent out to the community a few days ago, but a few things have changed since then. Some of the fundraisers are budgeted on the conservative side; for example she thinks that we can increase the amount raised from the apple fundraiser if we try. Emergency preparedness: there is a request for \$3,500, which wasn't included in the draft budget. The grant writer spot is blank, because that partly depends on where the school moves for 2017, which might affect a decision to pay for a professional grant writer. There is a proposal for a separate line for the Mathazine and math contest entry fees, which Ms. MacKinnon usually spends her whole supply budget on, but it actually goes to the whole school (so it would be good if it were funded separately so that she would still have the supply budget for her classes). The budget Abbie sent out was \$2,500 in the red, and that doesn't include the new requests. Our reserves will likely be \$10,000, but we don't want to spend all of that down.

Deborah spoke to the emergency preparedness issue. One of the things that stops schools from being prepared is not having a place to store things, other than in the school, which is not earthquake safe. Other schools have a steel container on school property with emergency supplies, such as Los Angeles, which has this at each school. It is not currently permitted in PPS because not all schools could afford it, so it is an equity issue. In June there should be a grant available for low income schools, at which point we would be allowed to get one of these, and then we could have supplies for longer than a few hours. Lincoln City has these, and they are \$3,000 with a \$500 delivery fee. The container is movable if we move schools, but this would cost money each time.

Abbie recommended sending the budget out to the whole school again, as it has changed significantly. Heather suggested that instead of adding \$3,500 to next year's budget we could make a motion to pay for it out of reserves and balance next year's budget. It was pointed out that we won't move until 2017 if we move, and we would wait until we move to purchase the container. If the board decides to let us stay at RCP we could do the container next year. The board may not vote on where we will be located until next fall.

Heather suggested that we make a motion to pay for the original draft budget: that motion was made, and seconded. A parent suggested that we add a provisional commitment that at some point we would fund the container. A revised motion was made that we approve the draft budget with a provisional commitment to support the emergency preparedness container funding in the future after we know our location for the school. It was then suggested that we approve the draft budget as first proposed, and to do a separate motion for provisional support of the emergency preparedness container. The original draft budget motion was then approved. A second motion to provisionally support funding the emergency preparedness container was made, and was seconded and approved.

Heather Kent addressed the grant writing issue. A number of people responded to her request for volunteer grant writers, and she suggested that the group of volunteers for grant writing meet with Mr. Garcia about this. It was suggested that \$500 be added to the budget for grant writing in case they need additional resources, especially over the summer. It was moved that if our reserves are at least \$10,000 on June 30 we would approve \$500 to help with grant writing over the summer, and that the executive committee may review and approve a decision to spend this money over the summer if requested. This motion was seconded and approved.

A motion was made for the PTA to pay for the deposit for next year's 8th grade trip, which was

seconded. Discussion followed. One parent stated that she wasn't in favor, and that she felt that the request was significantly higher than the funding which had been provided to the 8th grade in the past. The seventh graders are going to vote on the trip on Friday. There was also a concern that a decision to fund the deposit for the 2017 8th grade trip would set a precedent for a higher level of funding in following years. It was suggested that the request be for a loan so that the deposit can be made, and then the 2017 class could fund raise and pay it back. The initial motion was voted on, with 3 in favor, and it did not pass. A second motion was made to loan next year's 8th graders \$1,500 for the deposit, which was seconded and passed.

Audit volunteers for next year: Luci Hise and Tanya Schaefer

Principal Announcements and Updates:

The application deadline has been moved to May 27, as 4 schools still haven't received TAG scores. There are 138 applications as of the first deadline, and there will likely be an equal number for the second deadline. Families will be notified of acceptance June 17th.

Preliminary class lists will be made in the next 2 weeks, so current students will leave at the end of the year knowing who their teacher will be next year, and middle school students will know their preliminary schedule.

There is an application out to extend Ms. Xie's visa for next year, which is pending with the Chinese government at this point. Mr. Wood has requested additional SPED FTE from the district and hasn't heard back about that yet. There is tentatively \$70,000 in foundation funds from the auction, which should allow us to continue funding a math specialist as well as technology instruction for all middle school students.

Mr. Wood is meeting with Carol Campbell (current Grant principal and director of high schools starting in the summer of 2016) tomorrow about high school issues. He hopes to get clarity about the question of which science class current 8th grade students will be placed in next year in PPS high schools. Currently Lincoln and Cleveland allow ACCESS students to go into chemistry (usually a sophomore class) but other high schools are insisting ACCESS 9th graders take freshman biology.

Election of officers for next year:

The proposed slate was:

President: Jennifer Ellis

Co-Vice Presidents: Catherine Beckett and Clint Chiavarini

Co-Secretaries: Lisa Karplus and Gil Neiger

Treasurer: Colin Cunningham

This slate was nominated, seconded, and passed unanimously. The new officers will start August 1.

Upcoming Events:

Science Night is next Tuesday, May 17th. David Fikstad is organizing this, and needs additional volunteers. There is a sign up genius link for volunteers.

The ACCESS summer picnic will be Sunday August 7 from 4-7pm at Normandale Park Picnic Area #1.

The ACCESS ice cream social will be August 28th, and parent volunteers will be needed. This event will be different from previous years as the schedules will have already gone out to families (so it will not involve picking up schedules), and it will not be on a weekday so staff will not be present.

DBRAC meeting comments: There has been positive feedback from board members on the ACCESS alternative proposal. There has been positive support at community meetings at Madison and Jefferson. There has been negative feedback primarily on Facebook.

Laura M. Allen 9/20/16

ITA secretary 2015-2018