

ACCESS PTA
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2009

Present: Kim Grimme, Liz Adams, Alisa Wood-Walters, David Gates, JaneAnne Peterson, Sacha Gilbert, Megan Porter, Rachel Fleischer, Marcia Stanard, Meg DesCamp Renner, Beatriz Ramos, Beccy Tyler, Mona Vij, Judy Berck, Stephen Alexander, Audrey Van Buskirk, Jill Lewis

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Andrew Ryall Briggs from the district PTA presented two certificates to the PTA, one as a member in good standing and another certifying our chapter as an official PTA. Andrew reviewed the mission of the PTA, provided an overview of the local, district, state and national support structure and welcomed us as members to the larger organization.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

PTA minutes for April posted. Motion was not presented to pass them.

PTA STANDING RULES DISCUSSION

Discussions about all voices being heard at the board and membership levels occurred, specifically regarding the addition of several board positions that serve primarily as committee chairs for functions such as volunteer support and fundraising. The positions were presented to help facilitate more active participation on recruiting volunteers, fundraising, and events- the intent of more board positions was to provide a more formal network for organizing and delegating tasks within the PTA Board. Concerns regarding the number of board members exceeding the quorum (quorum is nine, proposed board structure totals nine, president is not allowed a vote under standing rules) were also raised along with the need to clarify term limits for board members. Concerns regarding the notification period for vacant positions were also raised. 14 days are needed to notify general membership that positions are vacant. It was noted that several formal communications were presented to PTA members and non-members via e-mail and notification at the April PTA general meeting. Term lengths were also discussed as it appears that there is a discrepancy from the 2007-08 positions of one year to the current positions presented for 2-year terms. PTA recommends positions of 2-years, however the current standing rules for ACCESS PTA present no information (blank field) for that information. Subsequent discussions on the benefit of having overlapping terms also happened.

Visiting members from district and state PPTA noted that standing rules are only that, they can be changed by membership vote at any time and for any single vote. Several motions were raised and passed as a result of the discussion:

Motion: Clarify term limits for existing board members that intend to return in their positions for the 2009-10 school year. Recognize current positions for Kim Grimme and Liz Adams as 2-year commitments, ending at the end of the 2009-10 school year.

PASSED

Motion: Clarify current board position for secretary as a 2-year position; elect Beatriz Ramos to position.

PASSED

Motion: Form a nominating committee to recruit for the position of Treasurer. Sacha Gilbert and JaneAnne Peterson form committee and will seek a third member (Megan Porter joined committee at a later date).

PASSED

Currently the position of Treasurer is vacant. Any recruit for the position can attend trainings over the summer that are helpful and required for the position without being elected to office. Nominee can then be voted into the board position of Treasurer in the September 09 meeting. Liz Adams will temporarily fill Treasurer duties during the interim if a recruit is not found in time to attend trainings or otherwise be obligated to the position. Please note that Liz would temporarily vacate any duties as vice-president and the interim duties of Treasurer are only to facilitate the transfer of information, procedures, etc. from one officer to another.

Proposed board positions

The proposed board positions were not presented as a motion to expand the board. At this time the proposed board positions are committee chairs, although their attendance and participation at PTA board meetings will be encouraged.

ACCESS/Sabin liaison

The idea of an official ACCESS/Sabin liaison was discussed and agreed to be an important conduit to Sabin. The liaison will look for opportunities to participate in activities with Sabin and coordinate to obtain mutual benefits between the two schools. Sacha Gilbert agreed to bring this up at the Sabin PTA meeting and to look for an interested parent, perhaps one that had a student enrolled in both programs.

Miscellaneous

The continued need for clear and constant communication was a consensus at the meeting. The visiting PTA representatives expressed that as a young PTA it is normal to deviate from standing rules and the problems we experience with sorting through the minutiae of details are shared with other groups. Members voiced ideas on posting a PTA FAQ to the BigTent site of common standing rules to help all members understand the democracy of membership, roles of the board and ways in which we make decisions.

NEW BUSINESS

Money for community garden

The current coordinator has requested a monetary donation from the ACCESS PTA to support garden activities. More information on how teachers use the garden is being collected as well as a more detailed request from the current coordinator on how the money will be used. When more information is available the money request will be presented to the membership for a vote. These requests and process remain the same for all monetary requests made to the PTA.

Mr. Garcia trip

Motion: was presented to provide \$500 to Mr. Garcia for an airplane ticket to Boston, for a week-long program about teaching science and engineering at MIT.

PASSED

Computer Cart

Motion: to provide school with \$5,000 to purchase computer equipment for the 2009-10 school year.

PASSED

Transportation committee

We have full participation with 2 PPS offices to facilitate solutions to transportation issues and concern. A June 1 meeting at PPS headquarters is scheduled at 9 a.m. for any parents wishing to work on providing transportation options to students at ACCESS.

Schoolhouse supplies program

ACCESS will have the opportunity to participate in the non-profit Schoolhouse supplies program that will provide for an organized and inexpensive method to purchase school supplies. The program will run June 1 through August 23. Information will be e-mailed to parents and sent home in backpacks. Contact Sacha Gilbert for more information.

New parent meet and greet

A new parent meet and greet social function is scheduled for June 1, 7 p.m. at the school. New parents can meet PTA members, other parents and learn more about the school to help with the transition.

Motion: Provide \$100 to fund the first parent meet and greet.

PASSED

First day of school- 2009

School will begin the day after Labor Day.

PTA parent survey

A survey has been posted and made available for response. Results will provide information to new committee chairs and board members for next year's PTA functions. The survey is confidential and will remain posted until May 22.