

Springdale Park Elementary School

Board Minutes

Thursday, April 2, 2009 meeting

Present:

Yolanda Brown, Principal

Clare Richie, President of PTO

Elizabeth Lieberman

Steven Fazenbaker

Guido Sacchi

Jenn Ballentine

Lynne Kushner

Aaron Danzig

Members of the PTO were invited to attend but not to participate. No PTO members, other than the Board, attended the meeting.

Location:

APS, SRT-3 Office

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. The minutes from the previous Board meeting had been approved prior to this meeting.

Registration and Survey Update

The Board discussed kindergarten registration. Information should be posted on the APS website in the coming month. Additionally, Ms. Pruitt, the Morningside principal, sent out a letter on April 2 to Morningside parents to clarify the registration process. The goal is to have the new school registration packets provided to students at both Morningside and Mary Lin who are districted in the new school.

The Board also discussed a short survey to be sent out to parents of students zoned in the new school containing a few topics such as views on extended day and on uniforms. The notice of the survey is to be sent out on the Yahoo! message board. One of the issues on the survey is whether parents would like the school to require student uniforms. Approximately 75-80% parental approval would be needed to implement this. Another issue on the survey is whether to have an extended day. The extended day program is currently in place at Morningside but not at Mary Lin. At Morningside, school ends at 3:00 instead of 2:30. The Board discussed the possible advantages and disadvantages of an extended day program. There are APS funds available for the extended day program if the parents to decide to seek such a program. The Board discussed obtaining additional information on the extended day program, which may be placed on the APS website, so that parents can learn more about the program.

### Technology

We are still waiting to hear from the APS Board what the budget will be for the new school's technology infrastructure. Ms. Brown said that the new school's technology plan and request was submitted to the APS Board. The APS Board is still trying to decide what the standard technology plan for a new elementary school will be. Therefore, we currently do not know how much of our request will be funded.

### Budget

The Board discussed drafting a proposed budget for the current term (i.e., until school starts in August) and also for the 2009-2010 school year. The first budget will likely be rough because there is no historical information upon which to build. Each board member was assigned a specific area of the budget (i.e., Curriculum, Fundraising, Physical Resources) in which to draft a proposed budget. The budget should be driven by the priorities for funds and expenditures needed before the new school opens. The Board also expressed a desire to establish a reserve. Board members are to provide the Treasurer their drafts by April 15. The Treasurer will compile and present a proposed overall budget at the next Board meeting.

### Spring Fundraising

The spring fundraiser will be on May 2, 2009 from 4-8 pm at the Hearth in Lake Claire . The facility is donating the use of the space. There will be a suggested minimum donation of \$10 per person. Teachers for the new school who have already been hired will be invited.. There will be a cash bar for beer/wine and dinner will be provided. There will be counselors to help with the kids, raffles, tiles to paint, a bake sale, and a DJ and bands. The Board is very excited about the fundraiser and wants to advertise to get a strong community turnout. The Board has a general liability insurance policy which is being reviewed to insure coverage for the event.

### Neighbor to Neighbor Campaign

The Board is looking for 100% participation in donating to the new school PTO and wants to be able to mention that in the fundraising letter. Each board member will provide the fundraising chairs a list of 10 names of people who may be significant donors that can be targeted. Fundraising letters will be sent via e-mail, rather than snail mail, but board members will be following up personally with targeted donors.

The website includes a link for making donations but the board will also provide information for donors to pay by check and avoid the 3.5% PayPal fees. The Treasurer has a sample donation receipt that he will provide to the fundraising chairs.

### Quorum/By-Laws

There were a few changes proposed to the by-laws but no vote was taken at the last general meeting because there was not a quorum. One of the proposed new changes is to lower the number of members necessary for a quorum. It is currently 50% plus one. Other PTOs have a lower quorum number (perhaps 25-50 members). At the June meeting, the Board will discuss proposed changes to the by-laws. These changes will be posted in July and voted on at the August general meeting. It is likely that there will be quorum at the August meeting because it is the first meeting of the school year.

The possible by-laws changes relate to (1) the definition of membership to make it more inclusive; (2) changing the terms limits to exclude counting service on the initial PTO board; and (3) changing the definition of a quorum.

### Meeting Schedule

April 30 – General meeting at Mary Lin, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

May 14 – Board meeting at SRT-3, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

June 18 – Board meeting at SRT-3, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Late July – Board meeting at new school (hopefully)

Mid-late August – General meeting at new school.

### Nominating Committee

Pursuant to the by-laws, the Nominating Committee for the next Board must consist of 2-4 board members plus 2 non-board members. There was a discussion of how to form the Nominating Committee.

### Enrichment

There was a discussion of identifying a person to chair a committee on Enrichment/Clubs.

### Fall Fundraiser

The Board needs a chair for a fall fundraiser. The Board appreciates that the Sally Foster program raises considerable money but the Board wants to find a fundraiser that may be more in line with the new school's vision and LEED-certification. The fundraising committee liaison will present various alternatives at the next Board meeting. Additionally, the Board discussed registering the school at Publix, Target, etc. for fundraising cards as soon as school name is determined. Finally, there was a discussion of the scholastic fair as a fundraiser.

The website for the new school PTO should be up soon. It is located at [www.newneschool.org](http://www.newneschool.org).

### Guidance Counselor

Because the new school is slated to have less than 500 students, there will likely be a part-time guidance counselor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.