

PTO Board Meeting 8/3/10

1. Pending items or new small requests needing a vote

Motion for birthday book club passed.

2. & 3. Administration Reports & First Week Activities

Ms. Brown's presentation:

Two new team members introduced.

1. Shante Blackwell, Leadership Support Specialist (an administrator). Duties will be detailed in an email from Ms. Stephens by Friday that will describe all administrators' responsibilities. Ms. Blackwell was at Mary Lin for the past 13 years.
2. Stephanie Reddick, Instructional Coach. Came from Morningside and taught 4th grade last year.

There are 130 new students and kindergarteners. 462 students predicted. Increase in class size this year (in all GA schools). There are 5 kindergarten classes. All kindergarten classes have a para. First and Second Grade can go up to 21. Third grade also to 21. Fourth and Fifth Grade up to 26. Most classes will probably have around 19-20.

First week activities:

Sheet given with first 3 events and assistance needed from PTO.

Need parents to lead tours. Some things have moved around since the Hirsch Building has opened. Maps will be given to everyone.

Need people to direct parents. Want to conserve paper and not give out as many maps.

APS will be filming Sneak Peek.

Back To School Night 8/31:

Introduce the entire staff to parents, then parents go to classrooms for presentations.

Curriculum:

Reviewed General Fund Budget (handout provided). Handout given detailing cost proposal for Saxon Phonics and Spelling '06. "Georgia Treasures" series is not diverse enough to teach phonics well—not enough multi-syllabic. Morningside and Mary Lin use Smart Phonics (focuses on multi-sensory instruction). Instructional expert was brought in tell them about programs that provide multi-sensory instruction—Orton-Gillingham (sp?). Includes handwriting and spelling.

Guido asked what teacher training is necessary. Ms. Brown said in an effort to sell it, Saxon will come in on Thursday to train. They will also come by mid-year to see how the implementation is going and provide retraining. All the training is included in the price.

Cameron asked what about costs next year. There is restocking of the kits each year at about \$7000-\$8000 (\$300 per kit is the approximate cost).

First estimate is \$11,390.61. A second estimate was prepared for just grades K & 1 and no extra copies for Ms. Reddick. Second estimate is \$5,612.64.

David asked why do we need phonics for second graders, can't they already read? Jenna said a lot of second graders have actually memorized a lot of words, but they don't actually have the skills to sound out multi-syllabic words.

Guido asked if all teachers are on board. Jenna says teachers are begging for it. Guido says could we get by without buying the extra kit for Ms. Reddick for each grade level. This would not represent an additional burden because they are already using deficient materials to teach phonics now, so it would ease the burden.

Third estimate was prepared for just grades K & 1, plus 2 kits for 2 and no extra copies for Ms. Reddick. Third estimate is \$7,070.91.

David asked if Smart Phonics was same price as Saxon, do we still want Saxon. Ms. Brown says yes.

Guido asked if we will still be asked for money for Study Island and STAR. The answer is yes. Approx. \$4,000.

David asked about the expert that was consulted. She and no one else have a financial interest in this product. Saxon also recommended by APS Director of Literacy.

This program is Ms. Brown's top priority from a curriculum perspective.

4. Budget Presentation

Guido suggests that the board should pledge to give money to the general fund. That would give us a better idea of what we need to fundraise. This is a common rule in fundraising.

Teacher grants: this is Liam's area. We need to figure out if it will be rolling or if there will be a period in which to get applications in. Aleta will talk to Liam about this and hopefully someone will volunteer for this on the membership form.

Guido's presentation about the playground: they are extremely organized and motivated. They argued that when people donated to the start up fund of the school, they expected some to go to the playground. Board doesn't agree with this, but Guido thinks they have a reasonable argument for an allocation.

Guido made a motion to approve an allocation of \$5000 immediately to playground committee and \$5000 contingent on them raising \$50,000. Motion approved. Guido will communicate this to playground committee.

David made a motion to approve an allocation of up to \$8500 to purchase Saxon Phonics. Motion approved.

5. Director Reports

A. Clubs – PK

Abbie Bennett and Elizabeth Mothershed will be helping PK with clubs. Shira Guthrie will be helping with the talent show.

Ms. Butler will be the person in charge of reserving rooms.

B. 5th Grade Committee

Board approves a separate meeting and a separate table, contingent on Ms. Brown's approval.

Board doesn't think that we can approve use of school grounds, Ms. Brown must approve. Contact Ms. Butler regarding use of space.

Hat day, needs Ms. Brown's approval.

Dance—cannot approve this yet. Need more info.

Next meeting will be Sept. 7.