

SPARK 2010/11 PTO BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 7, 2010 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

President Report (David Rein)

Mr. Rein spoke briefly about the next PTO general meeting, explaining that there will be a program regarding disruptive behavior, bullying, and reporting procedures. It was determined that the next general meeting would take place on October 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Principal's Report (Principal Yolonda Brown)

Ms. Brown reported that Saxon Phonics has been delivered for the kindergarteners and second graders, but the first grade program has not been delivered. Ms. Brown is working with the Saxon Phonics team to ensure delivery as soon as possible.

The school is working on the last piece of the LEED certification application. They are finalizing the individual class environmental leader lessons. The leader of each after-school club is required to sign a petition regarding use of the building. When that petition is complete, the application will be submitted.

It is anticipated that the walkway to the gym will be complete on September 19th.

Springdale Park currently has 472 students enrolled. The building is built for 450 students. While the children are comfortably fitting in the school at present, the school is conducting audits to confirm that all children enrolled live within the district. As of the date of the meeting, two children were withdrawn from school as a result of the audit.

There have been no announced plans regarding the land behind the school.

Springdale Park was selected by AmeriCorps as one of 20 schools nationwide to participate in the Youth Greening Foundation free of charge. Each week, the third graders will get one hour of environmental instruction from AmeriCorps trainers. The third graders will, in turn, train the other children in the school. The first lesson will be presented at the end of September. Ms. Lockwood is the contact.

The school plans to have student teachers from Georgia State and Kennesaw State.

The school now has two nurses: on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the school has a nurse that was contracted to work at the school; and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the nurse from Grady High School is at the school from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.

We now have a fifth grade writing coach, Ms. Trice, who is a retired Inman coach. Ms. Trice comes in one day per week to help the fifth graders beyond their writing assessment and to help them transition to Inman. The school is using substitute funds to fund Ms. Trice's position.

There was a discussion about church parking and whether there should be a parent liaison to the church. After discussion, it was determined that the school is better served by having the school administration and staff work with and talk directly to the church.

The Hirsch House, and specifically, the Challenge Program classrooms, are in need of Promethean boards or equivalent solutions. The school is evaluating various solutions and considering relevant factors, including teachers' requirements, cost, and supportability. Ms. Cofield has identified a number of options and will involve the teachers and the Technology Committee to identify a viable solution. Funding sources will have to be identified as APS will not provide additional funding.

Ms. Brown addressed a question about Race to the Top funding. While Georgia was given \$400 million in funding under Race to the Top, it has not been announced how the funds will be allocated.

Ms. Blassingame is a semi-finalist for APS Teacher of the Year. There will be a banquet in November. Ms. Brown requested that the PTO buy an ad for the program in support of Ms. Blassingame - \$125 for a full page, and \$80 for a half-page ad. There is a September 25th deadline. Ms. Cofield is the contact person, and Ms. Cofield will also present to the Sunshine Committee. Mr. Rein agreed to get back to Ms. Brown with a decision.

Teacher Report (Jenna Mobley)

Ms. Mobley reported that Saxon Phonics is working out very well. The children learn rules that they can fall back on.

Ms. Mobley discussed the grant program and asked about the types of programs that fall within a grant. It was determined that grants should be used for programs that are not annual, repeat programs, but instead new projects. It was discussed that funding requests for school-wide teacher sponsored events should first go to APS; if denied, the request should then be made to the PTO.

Treasurer Report (Cameron Stoeckel)

Ms. Stoeckel circulated a draft budget and explained various line items. Twelve items use \$85,000, and \$30,000 in items pay for themselves. As of the beginning of the school year, the PTO had \$43,857 + \$15,000 reserves "in the bank". There was a suggestion that the newsletter be combined with the yearbook. There was additional

discussion regarding amounts to be raised to ensure that there are sufficient funds to cover costs and to ensure a balance for next year.

Director of Student Enrichment (PK Trettel)

PK Trettel was absent. While no specific report was made, Ms. Brown reported that Ms. Lambert met with Ms. Stephens to coordinate use of the building for Family Science Night.

Presentation Regarding Room Parent Program (Jill Deane)

Ms. Deane reported on the Room Parent Program, which includes both a social room parent and organizing room parent. She reported that the room parents will ask for a budget later in the year. There was a suggestion for room parents to ask for informal get-togethers outside of the classroom. Ms. Mobley offered to present at the Room Parent Meeting the following night.

There was a discussion about suggested donation amounts and normalizing teacher holiday and year-end gifts. Ms. Deane requested that the PTO fund holiday gifts for administration or staff without a homeroom (although not teachers of specials, which was funded by each class last year). As of the meeting, there are 27 administrators/staff without a homeroom class. It was decided that the Room Parent Program would work to raise sufficient funds for teacher and staff holiday gifts and that, if there was a deficiency, a subsequent request for funds to the PTO could be made.

Director of Operations/Technology (Guido Sacchi)

A meeting of the Technology Committee was scheduled for Thursday, September 9th at 3:45 p.m. The Committee currently is led by Joel Markwell. The Playground Committee has launched its brick campaign.

VP of Communications (Aleta Mills Stubin)

Ms. Mills Stubin discussed the concept of teachers having a website with training by Ida Centner. Ms. Mills Stubin also discussed that the website is not currently secure and that there is an effort to make the site secure so that it will have additional functionality. Ms. Mills Stubin reiterated the directive that all fliers should go through her for a variety of reasons, including because of translation services and requirements. During a discussion about the next general meeting, Ms. Mobley suggested that a suggestion box be placed in the room so that parents can submit their ideas and views to the Board for consideration.

Secretary/5th Grade Committee (Deborah Danzig)

Ms. Danzig reported that the 5th grade movie night is on Friday, September 10th at the school. The PTO was asked to approve use of the gym for the fifth grade dance in

March. There was a discussion about use of the gym, including the fact that the school gets seven requests per year for special events and that the church can deny the request. After discussion, the request for use of the gym for the fifth grade dance was approved. Ms. Danzig will discuss the requirements with the Fifth Grade Committee, which will submit its request to and coordinate with Ms. Stephens.

Fundraising (Elizabeth Ross Lieberman)

Ms. Lieberman reported that 20 people are interested in serving on the Fundraising Committee and that she will be hosting an event at her home for the Committee on October 3rd. Ms. Lieberman reported that the PTO has raised \$5,500 to date this school year, and 168 families have joined the PTO. There was a discussion about various fundraising events and concepts, including SPARK After Dark, a social at The Warren, and a screening of Waiting for Superman at the Tara for 150 people (thanks to the efforts of Maria Rein). The location for the September 28th Dine Out is currently being changed.

Director of Campus Programs (Liam Pelot)

No specific report was made.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50.