

SPARK 2010/11 PTO BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 18, 2011
6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Pending items, intra-meeting votes or new small requests needing a vote
 - a. David received a request from Mary Stouffer for a donation to the Olmstead-Lanier Park Alliance, which manages the park across the street from the school. The motion to donate \$100 to the Alliance was unanimously approved.
 - b. On December 24, 2010, the Board authorized the purchase of one promethean board for the Hirsch building, at the cost of approximately \$2,700. A family has donated \$2,000, which was specifically earmarked for technology for the Hirsch building.
2. Report of Principal Brown/Administration
 - a. Student Population Update – We currently have 465 children enrolled and are still overcrowded. Approximately 10-15 children withdrew/were withdrawn in December, and several children moved into the district this semester. Largest class is kindergarten with 103 students. There are 89 students in first grade, 85 students in second grade, 71 students in third grade, 62 students in the fourth grade, and 55 students in the fifth grade. Ms. Brown will report on projections when she has them.
 - b. Gymnasium Update – Ms. Brown talked with a trustee on the board at the church who said there were several items APS is required to but has not yet provided, including an insurance check and copies of checks paid to

contractors. The trustee called to say that they are going to revoke the school's right to use the gym if APS does not deliver the required items. The deadline has been moved to January 25th for the revocation. Ms. Brown has been advised that the check has been cut by APS, but not yet delivered. (Ms. Brown subsequently reported that the check was delivered.)

- c. National Assessment of Educational Process ("NAEP") – The fourth graders test on March 1, 2011. NAEP is a national assessment, and the NAEP counsel will deliver the test and take care of everything for the testing. Individual reports are not given, but an aggregate score per grade is given. Ms. Brown explained that the Iowa test is for 3rd and 5th grade. The Iowa test is used for diagnostic purposes, and individual reports are given.
- d. Accreditation – Ms. Brown reported that a letter would be going out the day after the meeting to all parents regarding accreditation that will outline the steps APS is required to take by September 2011. Ms. Brown circulated the letter and the Report. This decision directly impacts the high schools and may impact funding of all schools in the school system. There was a discussion about what the PTO Board needs to do, including sending a SPARKe and educating ourselves by reading the letters and report distributed at the meeting. The letter and report, as well as Q&A, will be posted on the APS website.

- e. First in Math will not be funded by the district next year. Ms. Brown sought feedback from the Board members about whether and to what extent children are using First in Math at home.
- f. Next week is No Name Calling week. Kindness is the character trait of the month.
- g. Springdale Park received the Platinum Award. Ms. Brown distributed a copy of the letter at the meeting.
- h. No CRCT testing in first and second grade state-wide because of budgetary reasons. The school will still work with the teachers and Research and Accountability Department, so that we can understand at what level children are performing.

3. Director Reports

a. President (David)

- 1. David raised the issue of a timeframe for PTO nominations.
David, Elizabeth, Guido, and PK will be off the Board next year.
Aleta will send out a SPARKe about Board nominations.
- 2. David requested that we recognize Maria Rein for recognizing homeless children. There are 9 children who live in homeless shelters, and Maria organized for families to adopt a family – they volunteered and donated. We will put out a special SPARKe recognizing Maria and other people who helped with this initiative.

3. The next General Meeting (our 4th meeting) will be on Monday February 7th at 6:30 p.m. The PTO Board meeting will be immediately afterward.

b. Treasurer (Cameron)

1. No update.

c. Director of Student Enrichment (PK)

1. PK was unable to attend the meeting.

d. Director of Operations/Technology (Guido)

1. Guido reported that he sent an e-mail to the Technology Committee reporting that the promethean board had been approved, but that he received no response from the Committee.
2. The Playground Committee sent the drawings of the playground to the Druid Hills Historic Commission, which responded that the drawings look great. APS needs to approve certain parts of the playground. Tim Langdon is providing the required documentation to APS.

e. VP/Communications (Aleta)

1. Aleta requested pictures of anything at the school for inclusion in the yearbook (to be sent to Aleta).

f. Teachers (Ms. Mobley)

1. Grants - \$300 out of \$2,000 has been granted. They are working on grants to determine if they can allocate to several different grant requests.

2. Garden is going great, and we're hoping to get a greenhouse.

g. Secretary/5th Grade Committee (Deborah)

1. The "Transition In" Program at Inman Middle School was discussed briefly. The Program is also being announced in SPARKe.

h. Fundraising (Elizabeth)

1. Board had discussion of fundraising options, including Original Artworks and coffee houses concert and art show.

i. Community Building (Liam)

1. Liam was unable to attend the meeting.

3. Committee Presentations – SPARK After Dark – Anna Palmer

- a. SPARK After Dark will be at By Design on Cheshire Bridge. Do not have to rent tables or chairs – they are there for us. The Committee anticipates approximately 150 people will attend. Last year there were approximately 75 attendees. To date, 58 people have RSVPd, and 20 have signed on to the Host Committee. We have already covered our costs of the event. Costs include the band (\$300), and catering (Scott Edlein, \$3000 approximately). The Committee hopes that wine and/or beer will be donated, and Hop City has offered to be a sponsor. If beer and wine is not donated, the Committee expects to buy beer and wine from Costco and charge for drinks.
- b. Anna reported that there are over 60 auction items. There will be a silent and live auction, and a raffle. Items include Fifth Group dining cards,

week at camp, wine tasting for 6, Air Tran Airline tickets, and 3 outings with specials teachers. The live auction will start at 9:00.

- c. The Host Committee has reserved parking spaces in the front of the By Design building and drink tickets.
- d. There was a discussion about invitations to the teachers and staff, and giving a drink ticket to each teacher with the invitation.
- e. Anna asked for an announcement every Friday to remind the kids about SPARK after Dark (who, in turn, will remind their parents). Most volunteer spots are covered for greeters at the door. They may need additional volunteers to welcome people.
- f. Theme for fundraising this year was low hanging fruit. Target card – debit or credit card. School gets 1%, and individual gets 5% off of purchase. You can sign up at Target or on-line. Publix cards are also a great way to make money for the school. Georgia Natural Gas – for every person who signs up for Georgia Natural Gas, the school gets \$40. If you are already a Georgia Natural Gas number, you can register your number, and the school will get a percentage every quarter.

4. Meeting Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.