

PTO BOARD MEETING
Springdale Park Elementary School
6:30 PM EST
Monday, November 26, 2012

In attendance: Principal Brown, Heather Hallett, Moshe Haspel, Maria Rein, Irma Seabrook, Mary Stouffer, Doug Strohl, Bret Williams

Absent: Nicole Foerschler Horn, Jenny Lockwood (teacher rep)

Vote between meetings: The Nominating Committee presented Doug Strohl as a candidate to replace Meghan McCloskey, who had resigned as Secretary; approved to 4-0-2.

October Minutes

Vote to approve the October minutes was tabled, as at least two Board members had failed to review them in advance of the meeting.

President's Update (Heather Hallett)

Welcome to Doug Strohl, who has agreed to serve as the new PTO Communications Director.

The teachers really appreciated the Thanksgiving event and the thanks sent from the parents-- it was a good morale booster.

Fundraising Update (Bret Williams)

Bret provided a recap of the current capital campaign. This year, we made an intentional move away from for profit companies that leverage the kids in sales (such as Boosterthon) and sales of things that may not be consistent with the green and/or wellness messages of the school (such as candy or wrapping paper) in favor of a capital campaign. So far, the campaign has brought in roughly \$30k, mostly from parents but some from neighborhood associations and the like. A second letter is about to go out to parents, and a letter to neighborhood businesses is in preparation. A Principal's breakfast to thank all donors will take place January 11 at 8:15 AM.

Bret expressed some reservations about fundraising without a new budget to reflect how increased funds would be used. Specifically, he stated that sending these fundraising letters without a new budget bothered him. Many board members stated that the initial budget was "bare bones" and that we had always planned to reevaluate the budget mid-year. A few board members corroborated that the Board has planned to reevaluate the budget in January. Mary offered to assist Bret with a high level overview

of budget and areas of need. Bret said that he would send the business letters and plan to meet with Mary.

Bret reported that we had a fantastic book fair. Final numbers are still pending, but we raised even more money than last year. We held a dine-out at Doc Chey's on November 13, a second dine out at Yeah Burger is scheduled for Jan 22, and we intend to get at least two more. Nicole is speaking with Surin/Harry and Sons to schedule a date.

A new fundraiser Bret proposes for this year is a "movie night" to be held in the spring (date TBD, but probably April). A SPARK parent works for a company that puts on "screen on the green"-type events and has graciously agreed to donate that service for an evening. Another parent who is a professional DJ has also volunteered his services for the event.

Finally, the Original Artworks orders are on their way, and the main spring fundraiser, SPARK After Dark, is on track.

Budget Update (Mary Stouffer)

Mary had a number of updates (most related to budgets, but not all)

The parent work day went well: only a few people volunteered, but they worked really hard. PTO items have all been relocated to the attic for storage, and the basement cleaned out.

A few important developments at DHUMP: they are reclaiming the sexton space currently occupied by Ms. Pirnstill's PE supplies; we will need to look into getting a shed put in. DHUMP also wants to have a meeting with Principal Brown and Ms. Pirnstill to discuss some needed repairs.

Computers and other technology items are starting to need refreshing; it may be a good time to reconstitute the Technology Committee (Moshe noted that there were quite a number of parents who had expressed interest in serving on this committee via the volunteer forms).

The PTO will purchase cards holiday gift cards for all staff and any faculty not covered by the Room Parent system. Principal Brown is to provide a list of all people who need to be recognized (including cafeteria, custodial, crossing guards, etc.). Heather is to coordinate w/Rebecca Baggett, the Room Parent Chair, to make certain no gaps or duplication occur.

It is SPARK's turn to host the next CINS meeting, which will take place December 12 at noon. The school is expected to provide some sort of lunch or refreshments.

Inman Task force Update (Heather Hallett)

The Inman Task Force has completed its job. Its final recommendation to Superintendent Davis was to build at or near Inman. A link to the letter will be sent via SPARK-e.

Staff Training Update (Heather Hallett)

We have about half of the number of volunteers we will need for the January Staff Training event. Though some board members expressed concerns over the APS policies that border on hostile to volunteers, Maria Rein expressed confidence that she could round up the necessary number.

December Check-ins (various)

The wellness committee has acquired composting cages through Schoolyard Sprouts and has begun composting.

The 5th Grade Committee Valentine's Day flower sale flowers will be donated by Whole Foods.

In response to an interpretation by the co-presidents that the Bylaws require us to have one more member on the Board than we currently have, the Nominating Committee is preparing to nominate an additional member. They have asked former Board member, attorney, and current SPARK parent Aaron Danzig to assist with interpretation of the bylaws regarding the impact of serving part of a year on term limits. Moshe initially stated that he disagreed with the co-presidents' interpretation of this point of the Bylaws. After re-reading the section in question, however, he agreed that the co-presidents' interpretation was plausible. But since the section was ambiguous, he recommended asking Aaron Danzig to interpret this point of the Bylaws as well. *[Note: Section 4.2 of the Bylaws provides that the Board shall consist of ten persons – which it currently does. But the Bylaws also state that six of the members should be elected “at large”—while with co-presidents serving there are only five at large members]*

Other Business (Heather Hallett)

Board members should get any dates/events for which they need volunteers to Suzanne Scully, who is acting as volunteer coordinators.

We will need to schedule another general meeting for next semester.

Ms. Cofield has entered a video in a contest that Kroger is sponsoring. If she wins, the prize money would go to the PTO as the 501(c)3 representing the school.

Vote: Motion by Heather Hallett to earmark any winnings to Ms. Cofield's programming passed unanimously.

The PTO had previously voted to make a classroom "teacher" grant to Meghan McCloskey for cafeteria needs. As she was a member of the PTO Board at the time, however, it was to be structured as a reimbursement rather than the more typical grant. This differential treatment was no longer needed, however, once Meghan resigned her Board position.

Vote: Motion by Moshe Haspel to restructure Meghan McCloskey's teacher grant to be on the same footing as other grants passed unanimously.