

PTO BOARD MEETING
Springdale Park Elementary School
6:30 PM EST
Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Present in Person: Nicole Foerschler Horn, Heather Hallett, Moshe Haspel, Jenny Lockwood (teacher rep), Irma Seabrook, Doug Strohl, Bret Williams

Present by phone: Principal Brown, Morna Gailor

Absent: Maria Rein

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the February and March minutes were both tabled as several Board members had again not reviewed them.

May Day Update (Nicole Foerschler Horn)

The May Day carnival is on track for May 18, though we will need a lot of volunteers.

Mary recommended having volunteers to keep kids away from street.

TO DO: Principal Brown to identify school personnel to be onsite; Mary to see about parking at DHUMP

Expansion Update (Principal Brown)

APS will hold a community update for the new building on Thursday May 2, 6PM in the SPARK cafeteria. Representatives from both Perkins + Will (the architectural firm responsible for the design) and APS will be in attendance. To the best of our knowledge, APS has not selected a contractor yet. Also worth noting: they looking into the feasibility of geothermal for the new building.

Ms. Brown has been informed that SPARK may get an autism class for next year. But with nearly every available space (including the conference room and the art room) commandeered for homeroom classes, she is not sure where they can put it. Board members noted that Sharon Just has been advocating to have special needs classes placed in zoned schools [secretary's note: currently, special needs classrooms are concentrated in low performing schools, as those are the schools with excess space.] and voiced support for this idea. However, they recommended that APS be asked to wait until construction is completed.

Budget Hearing (Heather Hallett)

Heather attended today's APS Budget Public Hearing (and was interviewed for Channel 2 News). The budget situation is even more unclear than usual. It looks bleak for Extended Day, because it was specifically listed under the Superintendent's proposed cuts.

There is a series of community meetings to discuss the budget over the next two weeks; we will encourage parents to attend the one that is closest: Parkside ES on April 29.

Awards Day (Principal Brown)

Principal Brown will use some of her PTO-provided discretionary funds to purchase Awards Day medals. Awards Day will take place in the gym on May 20th for grades 1-4; 5th grade will have a separate ceremony on the 21st, and the Kindergarten celebration is still TBD. The ceremony for each grade will be separate and will last for one hour, with 15-minutes in between ceremonies.

TO DO: Mary to speak with DHUMP re: parking.

Teacher Appreciation Week (Nicole Foerschler Horn)

Plans for Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10) are well underway. Events will be held in Ms. Slack's Challenge Classroom. Volunteers are still needed.

School Counselor (Principal Brown)

SPARK has hired a new school counselor to replace Ms. Rousso. Mr. Holley will be coming from Fulton County and is scheduled to report on Monday.

Movie Night Update (Bret Williams)

Though rain forced the movie night indoors to the Inman Middle gym, it was still a fun event. Refreshment and glow-necklace sales grossed \$884, not including profits from King of Pops (amount TBD). The movie license cost \$300, pizza was \$214, and we paid the custodian \$95 to clean up. We expect about \$300 total profit at the end. While it was not a big fundraiser, it was good for community building.

Mary Stouffer expressed concerns whether the Inman gym had been left in proper order after the event; Bret assured the Board that he checked with Inman's custodian before leaving, and that the custodian had said everything was OK. Bret stated that he had also gone to see Teresa Johnson at

Inman Middle School that morning to provide a “Thank You” and a card to her. She was appreciative and glad that our event went well.

Fun Run (Heather Hallett)

Heather Hallett is meeting with Ms. Pirnstill tomorrow. A teacher orientation will be held next Friday during the mandatory faculty meeting. Posters and other promotional materials will go up this week.

Parents have the option of opting out of the run; their children will go to the Media Center. Students may opt to donate their prizes to charity.

5th grade gift (Nicole Foerschler Horn)

The 5th grade wants to give a gift to the school, and is looking for suggestions for something in the \$500 range. Board members offered a few items for consideration: tables with umbrellas, rain barrels, or something else for the garden.

School Start (Nicole Foerschler Horn)

It looks like APS will have a new “bell time” proposal: later bell times for MS and HS, but leaving ES alone.

Elections (Irma Seabrook)

Thanks to the efforts of the nominating committee, we have a full slate of candidates. The only contested election is for president, which has two candidates. Mary Stouffer announced her decision to withdraw from the election, leaving only one candidate for president.

TO DO: Moshe to provision the ballot via SurveyMonkey.