



**DRAFT VERSION**

PTA Exec Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2019

8:15 am

- I. Call-to-Order--President Emily Fink called the meeting to order at 8:20 am
- II. Review of minutes from the last PTA exec meeting on September 25, 2019
  - a. **Emily Fink seeks a motion to approve**
    - i. **Motion made by Jana Kovac**
    - ii. **Motion seconded by Kerry Weinheimer**
  - b. **Motion passes unanimously**
  - c. Minutes adopted
- III. Emily Fink—President’s Updates
  - a. Future of parent university--PTA goal is to help parents move kids forward
    - i. APS facilities meeting at King provided a lot of information, but you have to sift through it to understand what affects you. Grady is unique because of the questions surrounding Inman. We see parents who are stressed and feeling unheard. Our parents may not understand the larger picture and how Grady fits in.
    - ii. APS will be holding cluster level meetings in January--how do we disseminate the information more widely to help busy parents?
      1. Emily has been speaking with Ben Nemo at MLPA—maybe make this a cluster wide conversation that includes neighborhood associations? Can we partner to try to get everyone on the same page or at least identify common goals. Consensus is that this is something we want to at least explore.
      2. Next step would be a potential meeting between Emily, Ben and the other PTA and neighborhood assoc reps to see if this is doable. So many neighborhoods, maybe we start with PTA presidents from the other elementaries.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report--Susan Mapen
  - a. Budget—We are ahead of where we need to be. Boosterthon and Halloween were extremely successful.
    - i. Question from the community--why are instructional fees so high?



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1. Principal Sofianas explains these fees are set by APS, not MES. the amount varies from school to school depending on field trips, etc, planned at the school level. APS pays for one per year. That’s all some schools are able to do.
  2. Should we consider subsidizing transportation costs or entry fees for field trips? Or providing a subsidy so that all fees are the same across all grades?
  3. Consensus is to revisit this summer during budget season.
- b. Audit is behind schedule—both auditor and bookkeeper and difficult to pin down.
  - c. Quick books has raised the fee to \$150/month. Susan is looking at options and has joined a non-profit group for discounts on software, etc. pending approval.
  - d. Question for next year--Can we provide teachers with \$200 for classroom supplies and not require receipts?
    - i. Amy will check the rules, but there is concern that if we make it a “gift” we lose control over how the money is spent.
    - ii. Maybe a volunteer coordinator to coordinate receipts? or gift cards to a teacher supply store or similar? Will revisit before budget next week.
- V. Enrichment--Katherine Collins
- a. Variety show-theme is passport to adventure. The committee has asked for help on the judging/selection panel. One teacher is on, but the rest of the panel has been a lot of repeat parents. The committee has asked for a PTA board rep and they want to add diversity. They also want a community member. Maybe the MLPA liaison or one of the after care teachers?
    - i. Selection takes place all day on January 8.
    - ii. Parent volunteer can’t have a kid trying out
    - iii. Matt Fox volunteers.
  - b. Grants—School is covering Ms. Felton’s tech needs
    - i. Questions of process—what goes to MES, what goes to PTA and what goes to foundation? Brian and Emily are working with foundation to clarify.
- VI. Fundraising--Sally Carroll
- a. Halloween was a huge success. We made \$5-6000 instead of the budgeted \$10,000 loss.
    - i. 664 wrist bands were sold, but this led to long and not enough cotton candy.
    - ii. All cash was tracked through square for the first time. Now we know exactly where the money came from and where it should go



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- b. Boosterthon—the committee is still looking at options for other groups who can raise this much money or close to it in just two weeks' time.
- c. Auction is all booked, date and venue are set. Ticket prices should cover the costs of the event and auction proceeds will be profit.

VII. Operations--Kerry Weinheimer

- a. Clarification on educational expenses. Does the equipment get shared? For example, if the PTA buys cross fit equipment at the request of a particular instructor, can any teacher use it?
  - i. PTA might need to clarify that nothing we fund (through grant or \$200 supply money) is personal to them—it is the school's property.
- b. SWAG—92% participation in hand washing clinic.
- c. Take extra candy to worthwhile jewelers—they will send your candy to troops. and please remember--No candy in the lunchbox!
- d. Field day—we have a bigger budget and need to start planning. Need to discuss with boosterthon as we renegotiate. Coaches would like typical field day and then we can add on.
- e. Could we fund any type of lice prevention? At least some training?
- f. JR swag—no place for hate is coming up.
- g. Sustainability. SPARK is composting without APS permission. This is frustrating as we are going through the proposer channels and are having a hard time getting final approval. Composting forks, etc, should be added.
  - i. Both facilities and nutrition have to approve this at the APS level.
  - ii. Suggested that we start an Email campaign to aps to get approval
- h. We are recycling plastic film—plastic that doesn't crunch—amazon fillers, dry cleaning bags, etc. bins will be out until nov. 15. Printing yard signs for future reuse.
- i. Bathrooms—they were only getting cleaned at night, but the day custodians were not tasked with cleaning. Bathrooms will now have a mid-day check. But in reality, these are our kids making this mess. Is there a role for PTA in empowering the kids to keep the bathrooms clean?
  - i. Discussion of making this be a student led campaign? JR SWAG? Student council? But concerns about taking time from the educational day for kids to monitor bathrooms.
  - ii. Parent education is also part of this—we can't reinforce what isn't taught at home.

VIII. Communications-Jana Kovac



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- a. Accessibility of meeting. Can we stream on facebook live or elsewhere? Brian Baron has technological concerns, but there is no prohibition in the bylaws.
  - b. Considering switching yearbook companies. The alternative company is more flexible in deadlines, closer to real time, and every book is customizable on two pages in the back. the old company is not tech savvy and has a clunky interface.
    - i. Exec will see what we can learn about the company.
    - ii. Brian Baron will look at whether their tech works with what we have set up now.
- IX. Next meeting dates
- a. December 4 for the next exec.
  - b. Holiday Party for PTA Board on Dec 3 at Jana Kovac's
  - c. January 8 tentative exec to prep for the main meeting
  - d. General PTA meeting January 15–6:30 (since moved to Jan 22)
    - i. Nominating committee
    - ii. Budget updates
    - iii. Fabricio formally approved
  - e. April 15 8:15 am
    - i. bylaws will need to be changed for the final meeting to be held in April rather than May.
- X. **Meeting adjourned at 10:12 am**