

Agenda – PTA Meeting Tuesday, August 15, 2017

6:30pm, Mary Lin Auditorium

Call to Order: 6:36pm, Julie Noble.

Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2017 meeting:

- Motion to approve: Kim Meyer
- Second: Lisa Milko
- Minutes approved as posted

Co-Presidents' Report:

- What is the PTA? Description of the mission of the Mary Lin PTA given by Julie Noble.
- Introductions – Julie Noble and Lisa Milko, co-presidents.
- Introduction of Board: Janet Patton, Sarah McLean, Lynley Teras, Elizabeth Javelona, Yukiko Takeuchi, Hallie Meushaw, Robin Gormley-Knowles. Chris Fitzgerald absent.

Introduction to CINS:

- Annsley Klehr, one of Mary Lin's CINS (Council of Intown Neighborhoods and Schools) representatives, provided an introduction to the organization. CINS has been around for 40 years working to advocate for and educate the Grady Cluster. It is the only organization whose mission is to support the entire cluster. One of its functions is to facilitate communications between the schools and APS administration. CINS also provides voting and other guidance on issues impacting our cluster, e.g. redistricting. From an investment perspective, CINS has a grant program that provides funds to educators across the cluster. In addition, CINS hosts numerous programs, including the Principal's Forum, the Superintendent's Town Hall and the Grady Cluster Data Dig.

Principal's Welcome:

- Last year ended well with the Georgia Milestones assessment. Individual scores are back, but we won't have our CCRPI scores until October or November. This year, we've settled in the new staff and the kindergarteners. Principal Briscoe looks forward to seeing parents at the Principal's Coffees, the next one of which will be on August 25th and will cover the function and purpose of the different parent organizations, i.e. PTA, Foundation and GO Team.
- Questions:
 - Where are Milestones results for last year's 5th graders?
 - At Inman. You have to go in person.
 - What time is the Principal's Coffee and how long are they?
 - 8:05am in the Media Center. They usually last 35 minutes to 1 hour.
 - Can you talk a little bit about what is going to happen on eclipse day (August 21st)?
 - We are anticipating a lot of absences, up to 25-30%. Students will be counted present for the school day if they are in school until 11am. If your child does not attend school, it will be considered an unexcused absence. No notes or other steps are required in connection with unexcused absences. APS has purchased 50,000 eclipse glasses. Principal Briscoe has been getting questions about the quality of the glasses. We do not have them in hand yet so she has not personally inspected them, but APS has no interest in being responsible for blinding the entire student body so they will have made sure that the glasses are effective. The plan is to start releasing classes to gather on the Mary Lin lawn around 1:30-1:40 with the peak of the eclipse occurring around 2:30. Students will be dismissed using normal procedures on a

30 minute delay at 3:00. Parents are welcome to join but glasses will not be provided to parents by APS.

Treasurer's Report — Janet Patton:

- We ended last fiscal year with income of \$79,665,18, which was a little over what we budgeted. We had expenses of \$86,797.33, which was 80% of the amount we budgeted. We began this year with a carryover of \$23,924.88.
- Questions:
 - Ms. Arillo asks about funds for [100th Day of School Celebration]. Lisa Milko points out that it is still in the budget in the “Initiative Specific Days/Weeks” line item under “Education/Enrichment.”

Vice President Updates:

Communications — Elizabeth Javelona

- Rocket Blasts come out on Thursday nights and are also posted on Lin PTA Facebook page and our website.
- Additional communications can also be found on the PTA website and the PTA Facebook page.
- Julie Roseman pointed out you can go to marylinoutdoors.com for more information on the Mary Lin Outdoor Classroom.
- Directory – Look in the Rocket Blast for a link that will allow you to enter or update your information for the Directory.
- Julie Noble points out that yearbooks are on sale now. Chris Ackerman-Hernandez is leading this project. We encourage you to take lots of pictures and send them in to be used in the yearbook.

Education — Chris Fitzgerald (absent, Julie Noble giving report)

- Chris organized all the LEEP programs.
- \$1,000 per grade level is available for in school field trips and visiting artists.
- The new Outdoor Classroom coordinator is Dirk Lamb. He is tasked with communicating the needs of the Outdoor Classroom to the PTA.
- We are still looking for a Go Green Week coordinator.
 - Julie Roseman reports that APS intends to put 4,000 recycling containers in schools district wide. She goes on to explain Go Green Week. She describes it as a flexible event the purpose of which is to promote environmental education and recycling. In the past Go Green Week has included various recycling days (plastic film, plastic bags, batteries, ink cartridges) some of which also raised money, waste free lunch day, wear green day, etc. The coordinator would make posters promoting the week and oversee the activities.

Fundraising — Sarah McLean

- Spirit Wear Campaign – The initial orders are at the printers and, when ready, will come directly to the kids in their classrooms. We expect to have another campaign later in the year. Parents will be notified in the Rocket Blast when the store opens again.
- Dine outs – The first dine out will be an all day event on August 22nd at The Albert. Lin gets 10% of the profits from any purchase that day when you mention Mary Lin. After The Albert dine-out we will have the King of Pops “snack-out” at the school. We do two King of Pops events per year.
- The “Giving by Living” flyer just went out. There are lots of ideas for ways you can help us raise funds by doing the things you normally do. For example, you can sign up at Kroger, Publix or minted.com to have part of your payment go to Mary Lin PTA.
- Last year's fall fundraiser was wrapping paper. This year we are shifting over to selling citrus. For those who aren't keen on citrus there are a variety of other fruits and products available including sweet potatoes,

apples and cakes. Orders can be made on-line and delivered to the school or to the recipient you indicate. We will start taking orders in mid-September with delivery scheduled for early December, in time for the holidays.

- Mary Lin also has fundraising opportunities at Candler Park Fall Fest, the weekend of September 30. Lin PTA runs the bounce houses at Kidlandia. Please take a shift. Your kid will get free bouncing. PTA also gets a small cut from any 5K registrations that it brings in.
- Differentiating PTA from Foundation. PTA pays for school functions and events (e.g. Small Tall Ball, the Parent/Teacher event). Funds for curriculum and instruction go through the Foundation.
 - Kim Meyer spoke briefly about Foundation. You can go online to donate to the Rocket Fuel Fund. Last year we raised over \$120,000. These funds went to things like the level book reading room, document cameras, lots of professional development and the Outdoor Classroom. Money raised through the school partner program (partnership with local businesses looking for exposure) is split 50/50 between Foundation and PTA. Foundation also has an Amazon Smile account.

Operations – Hallie Meushaw

- Before school started, PTA brought in lunch from Zoe's for the faculty and staff.
- Transportation – Bus tags and bus captains are in place.
- Room Parents – Two room parents are in place for every class. Room Parent Orientation will be Thursday, August 17th after drop off.
- International Walk to School Day – October 4th.
- School tours are starting in November. Jane Smith is organizing.
- Sam Heys is the new playground coordinator.
- Installation of the new rocket art is almost complete. After these projects are completed we are contemplating another project, a mural in the stairwell outside.
- PTA membership has started out with great numbers. If you haven't signed up yet, please do and encourage others to join.
- Lost and Found – There are already a ton of clothes in L&F. Please come check. Please label all of your children's things so we can find you.
- Jeanne Eason is our supply closet coordinator. Teachers can request items like paper towels or sanitizing wipes from PTA and Jeanne makes sure they get them.

Parent Involvement – Lynley Teras

- Open House
- Successful Kleenex and Coffee.
- Principal's Coffee – First will be on August 25 with the following on September 29th.
- Community Service Project Coordinators
 - Kristina Murphy and Deniz Zizzi will be in charge of our fall service project, Operation Care Basket, near the Thanksgiving holiday.
 - Brittany Schwartzwald will run the MLK Day event.
- Linapalooza Reprise will take place at Fall Fest on Sunday, October 1st.
- We can also expect the Holiday Program, Small Tall Ball, Linsanity, Parent/Teacher Event and Spring Linapalooza this year.

New Business

Review Budget/Financial Status

- See attached budget. Lisa Milko presents the budget. Historically our budget stays pretty much the same from year to year. We make revisions based on what we actually brought in and what we actually spent in

the previous year. This year's budget has a number of decreases as compared to last year. Highlighted Changes:

- The citrus fundraiser estimate is conservative since this is our first year. We did the same last year for the wrapping paper fundraiser and just about hit our target of \$10,000. We hope for the same this year. We will amend the budget after the actual figures come in prior to the next PTA meeting.
- We've allocated \$12,500 to teacher allotments, representing \$250 per teacher (including GATE, specials, etc.) for the first half of the year. After we have the results of our new fundraiser, we will vote to fund the other half of the allotments. Teachers have until 10/15 to spend the money.
- The in school field trips and visiting artists line item has been reduced from \$1,250 to \$1,000 per grade. The teachers have historically spent around \$750 so \$1,000 still leaves room in that budget item.
- Questions
 - If we expect to roll over around \$16,000, will there be an opportunity in future meetings to propose additional spending? Yes. Future proposals may be approved by a 2/3 vote of the people present at the meeting in question.
 - Does the Building & Grounds budget include the \$1,000 requested by Mr. Rice? Yes.
 - I notice Rocket Run expenses are \$8,000 but income is only \$5,000. This line item should be edited to reflect that in addition to the \$5,000, 90% of the \$13,000 raised from "School Partners" can be attributed to the Rocket Run, with the other 10% going to the Directory.

Vote on Proposed Initial Budget

- Motion to approve the budget: Sarah McLean
- Second: Janet Patton
- Motion passes.

- Motion to authorize the treasurer to spend according to the budget: Kim Meyer
- Second: Hallie Meushaw
- Motion passes.

Announcements/Questions

- Annsley Klehr asks the PTA to talk a little about the PTA vs. PTO issue. Robin Knowles directs everybody to a document she drafted addressing this issue, which was previously posted on the Mary Lin PTA Facebook page. Julie Noble will put this same document on the Mary Lin PTA website on the home page. The Parliamentarian cannot express an opinion, but she informed members that if the general membership determines they want to switch from a PTA to a PTO, there is a lengthy process, outlined in the document, they'd need to go through. Visitor Michelle Olympiadis added that Springdale Park opted to form as a PTO because they wanted to get their parent organization up and running BEFORE the school opened, which is not possible with a PTA. Their Foundation works under the umbrella of their PTO. The PTA welcomes all views and notes that this is a decision that is not made by the PTA Board.
- In response to a parent question, Julie Noble informs the membership that the Agenda and Minutes for every PTA meeting are posted in advance on the PTA website.
- Announcement: We raised \$504 for the library Freedom Quilt Project. Dr. Johnson will now acquire a collection of books to complement the quilt.

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Kim Meyer
- Second: Lynley Teras
- Adjourn: 7:30pm.