

PTA Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 5, 2016

6:10 pm. Vice President Tim Oxborough calls meeting to order. Laura Lampert seconds.

SLT Report – We were hoping for more parent involvement at the workshop. It was to inform parents of what the SLT is, and the survey would have given info on what works, what needs improvement.

Committee Reports

Membership – Kasha Casey says that Teacher Appreciation Week is in May. They are working with the Fundraising Committee to give teachers flowers and raise money. They will ask the children to write their teachers a note of appreciation. Planning a breakfast for administration, and are reaching out to Whole Foods for donations. The water park trip to Camelback will be the weekend of June 10, 11 and 12. They've had a good response and it is a great deal. The Welcome Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 18th, the day before Father's Day.

Communications – Co-Chair Sherry Howard said they are working on a survey for parents. Trying to get parents grouped on emails by grade. Ms. Bruno said that in the beginning of the year she separates it by class.

Enrichment – Jennifer said that Misty Copeland is coming to TAG for grades K – 3. It is limited to those grades because of space restrictions in the auditorium. She is coming on Monday, April 11th. The Chess tournament is completely sold out. Working on chess for middle-school kids. There will be a short spring session of Theatre. We're sending to teams to Speyer Middle School. We're looking for parents with strong math backgrounds. On May 13th there will be selected TAG poets. John Johnson wanted to let everyone know that we bought a new piano, new Yamaha keyboard, cabinets for instruments, a rug for the Library. Sherry said that the Debate Team is starting back again in May.

Anand announced that Pamela Simon found a co-chair, Sherry Henry, for Communications.

Budget – Anand said that we're discussing the budget during our next Executive Board meeting next week. Programs like the chess programs, physical education programs, etc. If you have any preferences or ideas, email us. In May we present the budget idea to the parent body, and in June we vote.

Treasurer's Report – Rebecca Yoftahie said we have income from the 8th grade class. A small amount from TAGwear has to be added. The Superheroes Party brought in cash income which has to be allocated, it raised around \$2400. John Johnson spoke regarding expenses. He said there is a new keyboard, a nice carpet for the kids to sit on, new instrument cabinets, sheet music, repairs for instruments, the New Victory Theatre. Students will be going soon. The Louis Armstrong Museum was sold out. Rebecca said Chess is still in Pay Pal and hasn't been dispersed yet. John said that the balance in the bank is \$137,000. Kasha asked about iPledge, the reply was \$63,899 with about \$1000 to be allocated.

Anand said that the TAG Silent Auction will be next Saturday, April 16th.

Principal's Report – Principal Cesar said that this day was the first day of the state tests for ELA, it was multiple choice and some questions were very close – too close to answer. We wonder if this is truly about comprehension or are they trick questions. All are on level 3 and 4, we know they're going to pass to the next grade. She wanted to recognize some teachers who were at the PTA meeting. Ms. Bernstein the K – 5 science teacher talked about what the different grades are learning. Mr. Roberts the 7th and 8th grade biology teacher said that right now the 7th grade is learning about the nervous system. 8th grade is

learning about the living environment. For the Regents exam we'll be doing a lot more labs, we're getting really deep into biology.

Kasha asked what the 2nd graders are testing and Principal Cesar replied it's a benchmark assessment for reading. They sat and read 4 or 5 passages, to get them ready for third grade. They are doing vertical learning so the children can be prepared. The information will be transferred to their next teacher to prepare their plans over the summer.

Ms. Bruno said that May 14th is the "First Book" event. Parents are supposed to get 25 books per family. She advises them to get books for the reading level of their child for the following year. The teacher will be getting them too so the kids can read them in class. Bring a big shopping bag to hold all of the books. Principal Cesar says that they are free books. You don't have to take them. If you want them, take them. The Superintendent did this for District 4. Principal Cesar said that parent help is needed. The trucks are coming and will be blocking the street. She discusses Quality Review. Parent response to the survey is ~ 52%. Parents found it long, taking about 30 minutes.

Q & A Session – announced by Anand. Q - Regarding the First Books, what is the negative and positive of taking the books? A – Principal Cesar said that if you want them, take them.

Q – Is there a penalty from not having a lot of feedback from the survey? A – There is no penalty, it's nice to know what the parents think. Tim asked regarding parents with more than one child, is that impacted with the 52%? Principal Cesar said no, the DOE sends one per family.

Q – Electronics during recess? A – Principal Cesar said that in the age of technology, if kids want to they can have the electronics. Some parents are concerned because even the kids without the electronics, instead of jumping around and playing, they are sitting and watching. Principal Cesar polls the parents on who would like electronics to not be allowed during recess. Almost unanimous that parents do not want electronics during recess. Laura Lampert mentions the content of media the children are exposed to from the electronics, which they normally wouldn't be exposed to under parental supervision.

Q – Question regarding the progress in Spanish lessons. A – Principal Cesar said we're going to look at samples of books to see what would be good books to help the Spanish teacher to teach. She added that we're getting ready to get a progress report from the Latin teacher, we pay a lot of money for Latin.

Discussion of getting all kinds of programs in. Something would have to be sacrificed. Some schools flip classes, but we've tried that and it was confusing for the children and not seamless for the teachers. Anand said the Anderson School has a library with a real librarian, fully funded by the PTA. Principal Cesar said that their budget is about \$800,000. Anand said we'll get there.

Anand mentioned the PIN numbers given to students to eat lunch. Principal Cesar said the lower grades were given the PIN on a card and others were given it on a piece of paper which they memorized.

Principal Cesar said we will discuss the electronics and if we should tell the children in June. The change will happen in September.

7:16 pm Anand moves to adjourn, Tim Oxborough seconds. Meeting adjourned.

