

PTO Open Meeting
11/13/2019

In attendance:

Daniela Hurley - teacher representative
Kradi Petkov - co-president
Claire Johnson - co-president
Megan Fitzpatrick - co-vice president
Katie Young - co-vice president
Lonna Battles - co-secretary
Sarah Barton - co-secretary
Devra Dutton - Communications
Meg Timperi - DIG
Jenn Dwyer - Spiritwear
Kate Byers - Parent member
Natalee Rabinowitz - Parent member
& (Peirce ArlingtonEats coordinator)

Facilities Presentation:

Bill Hayner, school committee member and chair of the facilities committee

- Presented a list of recent work and upcoming projects ([click here](#))
- Health and safety concerns should be reported to the principal immediately
- Kindergarten playground update
 - Bids came in far above the budgeted amount
 - Increased budget requested for the FY 2021
 - Megan and Katie asked whether we can bundle our bid with Hardy
 - Contacts: Bill Hayner (bill_hayner@comcast.net), Jim Feeney (facilities director)
Mike Mason (APS CFO)
- Claire raised the need for school committee support for improving the library collection.
- Sarah asked about fixing the school bell, which is mis-timed.
- Daniela asked about uneven heating issues throughout the school
- Krasi asked about grounds upkeep. These are also the responsibility of the facilities dept.
- Claire reiterated that the Playground concerns are health and safety concerns.

Teacher Rep Update

- Ms Nichols would like to thank the PTO for funding books so that the fourth and fifth grade can participate in the Mass Children's Book Awards program this year. Money is from the budgeted \$750 library fund and from anticipated Book Fair sales.
- The laminator is broken again, and the teachers await an update on the purchase order for a new one. This is paid for by the district.
- Krasi will meet with a poster maker salesperson on Friday.
- Mrs. Haro suggests some inexpensive/donated STEM improvements to the playground while we wait for major renovations funding to come through. Ideas include PVC pipes,

painting games onto the blacktop, etc. The GoFundMe funds from a previous playground campaign could be used.

- The PTO will check on the inventory of cleaning supplies to fine-tune their monthly orders.
- The PTO will coordinate with teachers on a centralized school supplies order next summer.

DIG Update

- Based on survey feedback, DIG has decided on a literacy focus for this year. See the attached written update [here](#) for details.
- The next meeting is Nov. 24th at 7:30 PM at a Peirce parent's home 50 Park Ave Ext.

Events/Community update

- Megan is planning a possible Lantern Walk for December. Details are still in the air, but it would involve students creating/decorating a lantern to carry during a ceremony/song.
 - Questions to resolve - should we charge for lanterns? Opt in or opt out?
Complete lanterns as an art project at school? Involve DIG (survey of cultures with a celebration of light)?
 - Megan will contact Chris Martin, who has run a lantern walk in the past.
- It was decided by all present that the next parent coffee will focus on teacher appreciation.

Spiritwear

- Jenn Dwyer presented on spiritwear sales options.
- Our choices include bulk buys, using a local vendor for limited run online sales, using a large national vendor for on-demand branded products year-round (least profit for school), bulk buy on-trend items like bracelets in school colors.
- Tricon, a local vendor with limited run online sales has been contacted
 - Tricon is not a perfect solution. Shipping and credit card fees are high. Their quoted costs are a significant increase on wholesale.
 - On the plus side, there is no outlay costs to the PTO, it can be up and running quickly, and would provide good data on our sales demand to shop to other vendors in the future.
 - Jenn will contact Tricon and negotiate prices for a smaller range of products, that could be shipped to school, and report results on Slack. No concrete decision was made at the meeting.

Budget

- Krasi distributed the budget and actual spending for the year to date as a [handout](#) but did not have time to present to the full meeting
- Krasi announced that John Griffin will be stepping down as treasurer of the PTO, and we will need to search for a replacement for January.

Committee Updates

- See [here](#) for written updates from PTO committees.