

Franklin-Randall PTO Board Meeting 11/12/13 Minutes – DRAFT

Board Members Present: Dawn Gebler, Kelly Hamilton, Dan Julie, Noelle LoConte, David McMurray, Jinger Schroeder, Beth O'Callaghan, Soraya Willems-Neal, Donna Wong, Jason Speich

Others Present: Anne Shimlovitz, Nancy Pandhi, Cindy Schlichte

Administrators present: Britta Hanson, John Wallace

1. Call to Order 7:36
2. Approve October Minutes (Noelle) – Approved without modifications
3. Introduce New Board Member (Beth and Soraya) – Kelly Hamilton was introduced as a member at large. There is still one board opening for the volunteer coordinator. This will be Jason Speich and Dana Prager's last meeting.
4. Financial Update (Dan) – As of today \$14,199 has been raised in the Fall Fundraising Campaign. Total savings as of right now is approximately \$33,000.
5. Recommendations of Grants Committee (Noelle)

We recommend the following be funded:

- Dr. Jean seminar (full funding, \$840) (Sarah Daines, Franklin)
- Art Display Space and Permanent Student Art Collection (full funding pending one clarification of selection of permanent collection, \$280) (Molly Papier, Franklin)
- No Idle Campaign (partial funding, \$540 for aluminum signs and yard signs) (Laura Zirnigble, Franklin and Randall)
- Fusion Science Theater for 2nd Grade (full funding, \$150) (Sheryl Rowe, Franklin)
- Microscopes (full funding, plus funding for 4 additional microscopes for fund a total of 8 new microscopes, with the understanding that the district will refurbish whichever microscopes they can, to increase the total number of scopes for the 4th grade, \$1,623.60) (Katie Ripple, Randall)
- MONDO resource books (full funding, \$906.40) (Sue Feingold, Randall)
- Bullyproofing classrooms (partial funding, \$219 to pay for class fee, the rest will be covered by John W.) (Kati Walsh, Randall)

We recommend the following not be funded:

- Students Playing More Sophisticated and Challenging Music (\$1,113.99) (Martin Stein, Franklin) - concern about lack of support from other music teacher and the need to use the already allocated \$1000 to music by the PTO
- iPads for Classroom Use (\$2,000) (Lorimer Cushman, Franklin) - concern about the need for a bigger vision for tech funding at both schools, the lack of evidence

that this is a critical curricular tool, and the lack of pilot data using the iPads that the PTO has already funded. There also exists \$3,300 already for tech at Franklin that can be used.

--iPad Technology in the Franklin Gym (\$500) (Chris Rumbelow) -- concerns as above, plus that this grant was submitted late, and the desire to see Chris use the already allocated iPads to demonstrate success prior to requesting an additional iPad

--Fine Arts Technology Program (\$3,000) (Beth Kiser, Randall) -- concern that this did not meet with the School Improvement Project, no use of the already allocated \$1000 music budget

We **found alternate funding sources** for the following:

- Playground Art Installation (full funding, \$720) (Jinger Schroeder, Franklin)
- Okee Dokee Brothers (full funding, \$850) (Melissa and Kieran Schultz, Franklin)
- Randall Outdoor Classroom Shed (full funding, \$950) (Terri Jaye, Randall)
- Capoeira at Randall (full funding, \$800) (Rebecca Liggon, Randall)

A motion was made to approve the slate as presented (Noelle). This passed unanimously.

A separate motion was made by Beth and Jason to move the additional money (\$5,441.00) into a long term technology savings fund, and spent via the SIP or tech committees, or save for a larger investment in the tech programming in the future. Need for a district wide technology plan was discussed. This motion was tabled until a later meeting (most likely December meeting).

Discussion about how 3rd grade testing is computer based. One parent noted that Franklin-Randall is behind, technology-wise, relative to other schools in the district.

5. 60 second updates (Beth & Soraya)
 - a. Events update
 1. Fall Campaign through 11/27
 2. Bullying discussion 11/20
 3. MMM is 11.23
 4. GloBall is 12/14
 - b. Financial Controls (Jason, Dan and Beth) – all are working on setting some controls for financial decisions for the PTO treasurer. Jason has a draft of this concept for review, which includes check writing, debit card usage, bank transfers and cash handling controls.
 - c. Request for holding a donation drive at the GloBall (Beth). GloBall chairs were not interested in doing this, but the interested parties could do this. In this case it is a Brownie troop interested in doing a donation drive for the Humane Society
 - d. Affinity fundraising – Kristin Jackson (Box Tops coordinator) says many parents have turned in other labels (soup labels, etc.). Is there someone

who can do the Campbell soup fundraiser? Board supports seeing if there is an interested parent. Beth will send an email out to the listserv.

e. Teacher/staff appreciation (Dawn) – discussion about gift cards for a holiday gift from the PTO. Could parents contribute to a school wide staff fund for holiday gifts rather than give individual gifts? Gift cards now are given to reimburse teachers for their out-of-pocket expenses from the beginning of the school year, not as a gift. Luncheon is also coming up. Logistics of this were discussed. Monday is not an ideal day due to teacher development days. Thursday would be first choice of the teachers and staff, but Wednesdays would work too. It should be held over the lunch hour. Dawn will talk to the PTO liaisons about their preferences as well.

f. Board volunteer(s) to host two outstanding meetings (Soraya). Soraya needs two board members to host January and February meetings. Volunteers were found.

Meeting adjourned: 8:38 pm