

Franklin-Randall PTO Board Meeting 12/10/13 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, Cindy Schlichte

Others Present: Eric Olive

Administrators present: John Wallace

1. **Call to Order** 7:28 pm
2. **November minutes** approved as submitted
3. **Financial update** (Dan) – Revenue does not fully reflect the UW parking and the Paypal Fall fundraiser payments. There is \$1,396 for committed grants (\$400 remaining on Focus on Nonfiction, \$168 TAG art, \$185 Special Ed PEG, \$650 Franklin Grounds). Discussion was that the Special Ed PEG will not be moving forward, so that money will be reabsorbed. Current grants are on track. We will check with Ruth Harms and Kati Walsh about their surpluses before absorbing this money.
4. **School supply purchasing program** (Beth/Eric Olive) – Parent (Eric Olive) had the idea to have group purchasing for school supplies. There is administrative support. Prior discussions with PTO Board was tentatively favorable. Hamilton already does something like this with Staples, a program called SchoolKidz. This required consistent supply lists across schools, and buy in from teachers and parents/families. The box filled with supplies gets sent to the school labeled with each kid’s names. Many options, programs and discounts. For example, sample list on the website for 3rd grade would cost \$79, but with discount would be \$67.91 (maximal discount, house brand) or \$73.49 (with top brands, but group commitment discount). These discounts would be applied if we as a school committed to this program and if we choose the “best value” brands. There were similar discounts for the 4th and the 5th grade. Discussion about ensuring that families who cannot afford a supply box are not stigmatized (for example, a common supply room, or some donated boxes). Idea was raised about just doing a bulk buy at Staples (or Office Depot, etc.) rather than a box program. The board expressed interest. Donna Wong is the PTO Board member who will help Eric.
5. **Mindfulness classes** (Noelle) – Parent Suzanne Buchko approached the PTO to request their support of a mindfulness meditation class that she seeks to teach in the Spring. She previously solicited the PTO listserv about interest in such a class, and she received 57 emails in favor. She proposed offering 5-7 classes on a once a week basis. She would need some time alone with the adults which can be done by having two classes that would be just for adults and/

or providing childcare for the kids (families could split the cost of childcare). She would ask people to commit to all of the classes so that they could build a bit of community during the time of the class. She would be open to an after school or evening class. She would also do a class for families with K-2nd grade kids, and one for families with 3-5th grade kids. Children would not be allowed to attend without a significant adult. Class size would need to be small.

Question raised about where she was being trained and how slots would be assigned. Noelle will follow up with Suzanne and vote on this in January.

6. **Cultural arts activities funding** (Britta/Soraya) – Britta requested the PTO consider funding the visual arts playground installation submitted in the grants cycle but to which she previously committed to from Cultural Arts funding. The district is adding \$500 to Franklin this year to fund dancing program if we approve this transfer. We can either use discretionary funding or reallocate grants money. Motion to approve paying \$800 for Franklin Arts Installation from the grants program passed.

7. **Teacher appreciation efforts update** (Cindy/Dawn) – Randall teachers like the Target card program to replace their costs spent in starting their classrooms each year. At Franklin suggestions included iTunes, Target, Staples, etc. but generally the teachers were in favor of continuing the gift cards program. Comments also about support staff being included in this program. Including this staff would increase the budget by \$4000-\$5000. Appreciation efforts include the luncheons/breakfasts at each school. Details will be worked out with Dawn and Cindy.

8. **60 second updates:**

a. Upcoming events and dates:

1. GloBall is 12/14/13 (Volunteers needed!)

2. January PTO meeting is 1/14/14 at Randall, "The Specials"

b. Fall campaign close-out: Exceeded goals in dollars raised and in number of families participating. Melissa Allen will be the chair for this next year.

c. Diversity initiative: Still holding steady, two different pilots ongoing. One is a racial inequity presentation at Franklin schools. The other is a cooking exchange which is in the works.

d. Special Ed PEG – As above. There is not enough parental interest, so this will not be moving forward.

e. Babysitters – The two prior PTO meeting babysitters will be graduating and have to resign their positions with the PTO.

Noelle has identified two replacements who will start with the
January meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:47 pm