

Franklin-Randall PTO Board Meeting Agenda

December 8, 2015 – 7:30 – 8:30

Franklin Elementary School Library Media Center

Board Members present: Sara Campbell, Beth O’Callaghan, Lindsay Feitlinger, Kim Anacker, Soraya Willems-Neal, Kristina Espinoza, Paul O’Flanagan, Colleen Johnson, Ellen Boyle, Melissa Hornung

Administrators present: Sylla Zarov, John Wallace

Others present: Berta Strigel

1. Called to order at 7:40pm
2. Approve November meeting minutes (Melissa) -The motion made by Lindsay (seconded by Sara) to approve the November minutes was approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer Update (Chris) – Chris was absent tonight and will present his update at the January meeting. It was noted that football parking raised approximately \$37,000 this fall.
4. Fundraising Update (Kristina) – The food truck fundraiser that was scheduled to occur at the final football game did not happen because we did not have a permit so the truck could park on the grass. We will look into this and hopefully it will be resolved by next fall. The fall fundraiser seems to be a little off pace to reach the goal of 235 donors and \$17,500, but collection and tallying will happen tonight so the numbers should increase again. There is another week left before it wraps up on December 18. Ellen has drafted a letter of support for the PTO that will be given to the teachers to sign. The goal is to include it in Friday folders this week to help boost the numbers for the final week of the fundraiser. Colleen suggested that the Board reach out to their own contacts and classrooms to create more of a personal feel to the fundraiser. Kristina, with the support of our webmaster, will try to include a “Fundraising thermometer” as a visual to include on the website and possibly newsletter. We will make a great effort to follow up with thank you cards/recognition to all donors. Grant program Update (Colleen) – We are delaying voting on the grants until the January meeting. The grants committee has not had a chance to meet yet due to a mix-up with the scoring matrix, but will meet before our January PTO meeting. All grantees have been notified and none of applications are time sensitive. The principals will look over their budgets to see if any of the projects could potentially be funded in part or in full through school budgets. The idea of offering parking for UW volleyball games and other camps events was raised as a way to fundraise for special projects.
5. Capital fund policy draft (Colleen) – Colleen is working on a draft of the Capital fund policy (reference 12/7/15 email from Colleen to the Board). The main idea is that we would

separate small and large grants, with the smaller grant requests going through the traditional grant cycle, “mini grants,” and the larger ones through the Capital fund, “challenge grants.” The hope is that the larger challenge grants could leverage external funding opportunities (matching grants or fundraising). We would like to discuss possible approved fundraising options and guidelines. Should we direct some funds first to the endowment for each school before we decide on an amount available each year? Some questions raised were if groups would need some up-front capital before they are able to begin the fundraising process on their own. Also applicants might be deterred to apply for such a grant if they knew they would have to do extra fundraising. How can we as a Board balance being responsive yet guiding choices and maximizing our time. Can we sustain two separate grant cycles a year? The goal of the Board is to create a strong, fair, and equitable capital fund policy that the Board can use far into the future. Colleen, Lindsay, Chris and Beth will meet to discuss this further and bring it to the Board to review next month. Input is welcome. Please join the group if you are interested in helping to draft the policy.

6. PEG and Committee Reports

- a. Parent Empowerment Group updates (Tonya, Ellen, Reesie) – The groups have their December meetings coming up. It was decided at the Hmong PEG that they would prefer to keep the end of the year PEG picnic and the International Dinner as two separate events. A Hmong cooking class will be offered in the late winter (possibly February) during a regular PEG meeting at Bayview. Attendees would be invited to eat dinner with the group and then learn how to make egg rolls. At the last Latino PEG meeting the families filled out surveys and broke into small groups to generate ideas for meeting topics. The December meeting will focus on nutrition and also include a Las Posadas celebration. Reesie was unable to attend the Board meeting but will present an update on the African American PEG in January.
- b. Technology Committee updates (Lindsay & Sara) – Rough estimates for two projects were given. Providing presentation stations to all classrooms at Franklin would cost about \$20,000 (13 stations). Providing Chromebooks for Randall would cost about \$27,000 (364 Chromebooks). It was suggested that the Board look into a “Foundation for the Future” grant funded by the Foundation for Madison’s Public Schools. The deadline to apply is early January, 2016.
- c. Equity and Inclusion Committee (Colleen) – We ran out of time to discuss this, but an update was provided during the membership meeting. See those minutes for details.
- d. Health and Wellness Committee and Franklin Play Yard (Colleen) – We ran out of time to discuss this, but an update was provided during the membership meeting. See those minutes for details.

8. Parent engagement meetings

a. West Side PTO Coalition–Melissa update from November meeting – We met at Olson school on 11/18. Nichelle Nichols, the new director MMSD Family, Youth and Community Engagement Department, presented the districts plans for focusing on this topic (family and community engagement) for the 2016-17 school year. MMSD is developing a toolkit for schools to support this. Some initiatives that have resulted from the work this group is doing are new parent liaisons at certain schools, piloting of a new parent-teacher conference approach, the Parent Academy classes advertised in the MSCR Program Guide and selecting two schools to be “community schools” for the next school year. We also were provided with some “Recruitment and Outreach tips for PTO/PTAs.”

b. Superintendent’s parent advisory group (Colleen) – We ran out of time to discuss this, but an update was provided during the membership meeting. See those minutes for details.

9. Event updates (Colleen) –

a. Marvelous Math morning - We ran out of time to discuss this, but an update was provided during the membership meeting. See those minutes for details.

b. Upcoming event: Glo Ball will take place on January 23, 2016 at Franklin.

10. Adjourned at 8:35pm

Submitted by Melissa Hornung