



PTA Unit

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2013

- 1) Welcome
 - a. Call Meeting to Order - 6:35pm
 - b. Flag ceremony by Cub Scout Pack 318, Bears den
 - c. Approval of October 2013 minutes – motion: Jennifer Stowe, Second: Suzanne Mannis

- 2) Treasurer – Chris Rankin
 - a. Income Statement highlights: Directory Sales made \$1000. Jumble Sale \$900 and Trivia Night made \$2300, Uniform Sales \$900. Great year!
 - b. Refund checks in the mail for exchanges: France (~\$300) and Spain (~\$900).
 - c. Earning for Learning did not happen this year but they will be doing it again at some point.

- 3) President's Report – Marlow Sipes
 - a. Board approved Jiffy Passes for identikid system. Purchase one for \$5 so there's no signing in and it prints your sticker as well.
 - b. Fund request for 5th grade can can skirts. Girls perform at Mardi Gras every year. Current ones are second hand and have been used for 15 years. New skirts will be used for Mardi Gras and Kids World for years. Total cost with Shipping is \$785. Funds to be moved from special initiatives to fifth grade budget. Motion: Shelley Strickland. Second: Stephanie de Verges.
 - c. Fund request for dolphin statue repair. Dolphin was from the original EIS class. \$625 to make repairs to statue and make a new case. Full cost would be \$4000 but we are getting a special rate. \$625 will come from Building and Grounds. Motion: Suzanne Mannis. Second: Paula Udwin.
 - d. PLEASE do not use cell phone while picking up kids. Do not talk or do email/check FB, etc. You are holding traffic up and it's dangerous.
 - e. DO NOT TURN LEFT from 56th street. Ticketing will start. The city will be striping 55th to make sure there will be three lanes there – an "in," a "left turn," and a "right turn."
 - f. Ticketing will also start for parking on 56th so please do not park there.
 - g. Procedures will continue to improve, please be patient.
 - h. National French Test for 3rd-5th was approved for funding by the PTA. Testing will start again this year.

- 4) Principal's Report – Belinda Baldwin
 - a. Kinder Tours – tours have started and dates are listed on website. Kids must be 5 before September 1st. First one conducted today and there will be 12 more. Must go on tour to apply and will receive a color-coded verification form to confirm tour taken. Existing families do not have to take the tour. You will still need to get a verification form from Jeanne and apply. Sibling preference does apply for siblings of current K-4 students but they must still qualify. Testing beginning asap and will carry on through January.
 - b. Casvi Schools, Madrid, Spain – visitors were here Monday. Working on an exchange with them now. Director and two english teachers toured EIS, ZIS,



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- Thoreau and Carver. Hoping that this will be a part of the exchange program for next year.
- c. Exchange students arriving from Costa Rica – students arrive the 15th through Thanksgiving.
 - d. Blue Ribbon Ceremony – teachers voted and Barbara McCrary and Josie Carreno will be going to the ceremony.
 - e. Tentative dates for French Students to go to France in January. No info about French kids coming here yet.
- 5) 2nd VP/Volunteers – Lisa Albers
- a. Volunteer Recognition – Big thank you to Marcy Wilson for all her help in sorting out traffic issues, etc. She's been working with Belinda since March.
 - b. Reporting volunteer hours – count all volunteer hours when you report via email and Lisa will subtract out hours recorded in the identikid system. Check in with Jeanne if you need to see how many you've recorded in the system. Volunteer hours do not need to be IN the building. Soccer, scouts, PTA, etc.
- 6) Fund Development – Alicia McLain
- a. Harvest Crate – Last year we made \$5000 from this and would like to earn \$10,000 this year. Corporate orders of 10 or more comes with free local delivery. They also will ship via fed ex if you want to pay for delivery outside the local area. Friday Nov 15th, sales start the 18th. Orders due December the 9th and delivery on the 13th to the school. Harvest Crate run by EIS family.
- 7) Programs – Jennifer Stowe and Suzanne Mannis
- a. Kinder Holiday Mixer – Dec. 7th, 10am-noon at First United Methodist Church. Kinder Bingo meant parents didn't get much chance to socialize and space was limited. Changing it to an event where kids can play more and parents can chat more and get to know each other. To volunteer contact Suzanne Mannis.
 - b. International Festival and Parade, Nov 22nd, Contact Dawn@bodean.net to volunteer. Takes the place of Kids World in the off years. Kids can dress up in costumes from different countries and parade and they will go to the fair here at school – different countries represented by parent volunteers.
- 8) Membership – Melissa Meinen
- a. Final PTA membership numbers – 330
- 9) Karl Szfranski – landscape architect and EIS dad. Master plan for the campus. THESE ARE JUST IDEAS RIGHT NOW. Wanted to maintain as much of the existing materials out back as much as possible – field goals, etc.
- a. Bringing four goals from old campus. 4 Under-11s fields, maintaining 70% of baseball backstops.
 - b. Concept of a 200m track within the gravel trail.
 - c. Possibility of amphitheatre/outdoor learning feature with natural incline down the line on the north west side of the back of the school.
 - d. Fixing up old basketball court and possibly covering with a roof structure.



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- e. Space has been put aside for larger play structure whether it comes from the old school or newly ordered (committee is working on seeking bids for moving old structure).
- f. Establishing a perimeter mostly with tree planting and some fencing but fencing is very expensive.
- g. Please send every idea you've got and we'll keep compiling and working on it until we get it right. Once we have a master plan we love, we will approach TPS about getting it adopted. Master plan would take years to complete and when money becomes available from fund raisers, etc. we would have ideas where it would be used. Suggestions/comments from meeting below:
 - i. Looking into a committee to help prioritize campus needs
 - ii. Benches and areas for parents to congregate will be moved from old school.
 - iii. Dept of Wildlife will help with outdoor learning centers so it's worth looking into possible funding help.
 - iv. Gardens can be wonderful if there is 100% buy in from teachers. If not, it quickly becomes an eyesore so it is not currently in the plan.

10) New Business –

- a. The French Consulate will be here visiting and Christy Mason will be accompanying him.
- b. Test scores- there is a child study team to identify children who need help and to get them up to speed. Went through all the OCCT testing piece by piece and identified the areas where there were issues and how it can be fixed. It was geometry and measurement for math and the whole district dropped in science.
- c. There were fewer who qualified in the past due to testing availability in the target language. Third graders who were identified as needing additional help through RSA (reading sufficiency act) were offered interventions and tutoring.
- d. The parents of any child that has been identified this year have been notified or will be notified by the end of next week. Interventions have already begun for students this year and when RSA funding becomes available, after school tutoring will start.
- e. A meeting to discuss third grade retention law will be set by the end of the week. Belinda to notify.
- f. Questions addressed to and answered by the Guests from TPS: Jean Swanson (constituent and student offices), Reed Robinson (District Project Manager), Jessica Haight (ILD - Instructional leadership development), Tahlia Shaul (Chief Human Capital Officer), Sue Ann Bell (Director of Maintenance), Bob LaBass (Bond office)
 - i. *What is happening with the reading sufficiency?* It is state law that every third grader has a reading sufficiency folder. Includes an SRI, MAP scores, etc that may take the place of OCCTs if a child didn't test well/wasn't feeling well, etc. to prove that they are on grade level. Any reading sufficiency act (RSA) money received will be directed to working with children who are identified as having trouble.
 - ii. *How is the law with regards to PE interpreted? Is it 60 minutes in PE only or is there flexibility for teachers to provide some of that instruction in their classes?* District leaders feel there is flexibility and is not a strict



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- 60 minutes a week in PE class policy. Leaders will get with Sutton Murray about interpretation and work out a solution.
- iii. *Who do we need to talk to about construction?* Delays were caused by moving library and enlarging it. With that redesign we also got a better, more secure front entrance that no other school has. We are at 80% completed. The vast majority of major work has been completed weeks, if not months, ahead of time. Approximately 150 items still to be completed but most of them are “touch up the paint.” Reed Robinson, Project Manager, feels we are just within a few weeks of completion. Bullet pointed reports will be delivered to Belinda every few days in response to request.
 - g. Curriculum questions addressed to and answered by Belinda Baldwin:
 - i. *Do the teachers have the materials they need to teach?* Teachers turned in a list of what their needs/wishes were last year and prioritized them. All money was spent that remained last year. When new money was allocated this year, we went back to the list to continue working on it. The existing first grade teachers ordered double for the incoming new teachers so both classes would have the same.
 - ii. *Is EIS giving new assessments?* These are district assessments. Initially we were not going to use the new English assessment, but there were no French testing tools so we decided to use the English one. The test will be administered two more times (January and March or April) to track progress.
 - iii. *Do new teachers have mentors?* Yes, both within the building and district.
 - iv. *Do teachers have time to collaborate?* Yes, they have weekly team meetings.
 - v. *Who is leading instruction in the building and what is the focus?* We are all leading instruction. Focus is to identify the needs of those who may not be keeping up. We desegregated the data from testing and identified problem areas using that and district curriculum maps.
 - vi. *Common Core – have we made the transition?* Not entirely – all schools are in the process. District has set out a map of the common core framework with points that will be on OCCT.

11) Adjournment - Gray Strickland motion, Neil Van Delsem Second.