

Burns Park PTO – September Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Meeting called to order by Lynda Norton, President, at 7:04 p.m.

- I. No previous meeting minutes to approve.
- II. Kathy Morhous, Principal, updates on PASS and construction.
 - a. PASS (Partnership for Academic Successful Students) is a new component of equity training that has been ongoing for past 4 years. They are looking for a representative to work with this group that tries to help understand what students who are minorities feel like in school environment, and strives to help make them feel more included and welcome. This is an addition to the CARE teams (Collaborative Action Research) which consists of 6 teachers who work in pairs to study good strategies for teaching minority kids, and what equity issues mean for all students.
 - b. Construction over the summer has included all of the following:
 - i. Enlarged three classrooms on the 3rd floor for 4th and 5th graders.
 - ii. Fire hydrant installed closer to school.
 - iii. New wireless access added throughout school.
 - iv. New curtains for stage are ordered and should arrive in October.
 - v. New lockers throughout entire school.
 - vi. Door added to old locker room to create extra storage.
 - vii. Ceiling in room 103 (Sue Cramer's Kindergarten) is still in process of renovation due to the roof deteriorating. District is in process of investigating the extent of damage, and what repairs are required. Decision will be made in coming weeks.
 - viii. PTO provided funds for whiteboards to replace chalkboards or bulletin boards in all classrooms. Funds were set aside from 2007 – 2008 PTO budget surplus.
- III. Steve Swaney, Treasurer, Budget update
 - a. Steve and Jenny Freisthler, co-treasurers, are using a new accounting system that allows us to have monthly actuals. They are still converting from the old system, so proposed budget for 2009 – 2010 will be presented at the October PTO meeting.
- IV. Courtney McCreadie presented a proposal for doing a new fundraiser -- Movie Night. She knows of a school that was able to raise up to \$4000 in one year from holding it once per month. The school had a 6 person committee that was in charge of organizing it each month. 20 parent volunteers helped to staff each movie night, with up to 200 students in attendance. They charged \$3 for admission and \$2 for an optional snack. Parents were able to drop child/ren off and have 2 hours of free time. PTO will put out information through BP Press and PTO Notes to garner parent interest in participating and helping with this potential fundraiser.
- V. Sally Pinnell presented a proposal to use the Burns Park parking lot for another fundraiser – charging people to park in our school lot during U of M football games. Many people have been parking there for games for free, so she thought it would be a good idea to have people pay to

park. The money raised could be used to help fund the new garden. It was decided to use this Saturday as a trial. Lynda Norton will send out an email to call for volunteers to help with staffing the parking lot and collecting parking fees. We will charge \$10 per car.

- VI. Golden Apple applications are due on October 15th.
- VII. Burns Park Run update – The Run did very well this year, although final numbers are not in yet. Jackie and Joel Dalton, co-chairs, are estimating that we earned more than the expected \$9,000.
- VIII. Garden update – we are currently raising “seed” money for the new garden which will be located on the south side of the school. We will be putting up a fence, which will be another fundraiser to help support the garden. Students will be able to purchase a piece of the picket fence to decorate. Design of the garden will begin in a few weeks, with the goal of coordinating the planting/harvesting schedule with the start/end of school schedule. The Senior Center will be contacted to help pull in community involvement and give the garden longevity.
- IX. Burns Park Bucks – orders will be due next Wednesday. It is now possible to link your Kroger or Plum rewards/frequent shopper cards to the Burns Park Buck scrip program so that every time you shop and make a purchase the PTO will earn a percentage of the sale.
- X. Courtney McCreadie asked about tracking down purple forms as there are still many that have not been turned in, as well as many new families for which there are no forms. This makes it challenging to place the students in the proper class for the upcoming student directory.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Elizabeth DeRose, Secretary