

Burns Park PTO – October Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Meeting called to order by Lynda Norton, President, at 7:05 p.m.

- I. Courtney McCreddie, Co-Volunteer Coordinator, Movie Night Fundraiser
 - a. Bird Elementary School in Plymouth is sending all of their materials used for their Movie Night Fundraisers to help us get started at Burns Park.
 - b. One idea is to have different committees provide volunteers for different months. i.e. Hospitality Committee members volunteer to staff movie night in March.
 - c. Since most children's movies are shorter in length, Wendy Burke suggested showing a "short" prior to the feature film.
 - d. Results from the survey that was sent out to the school community will be posted on the PTO website and in the PTO Weekly notes. There was much discrepancy over whether the movie should be rated G or PG. Suggested G movie for the first one.
 - e. The first Movie Night will be in November or December, and will ask families to bring canned goods for the Can Drive.
- II. Steve Norton, IT Chair, Millage Vote Informational Presentation
 - a. The property tax proposal was voted on by all 10 districts in Washtenaw County including Ann Arbor.
 - b. The purpose is to help increase schools funding...they wouldn't be proposing this if there were any other alternative. There are tremendous cuts coming from the State, and we are entirely dependent on the State to fund our schools.
 - c. In Ann Arbor, \$2.5 million will be cut this year...state funding has been declining for years as revenue coming in has dropped. The Ann Arbor schools have reduced costs by over \$15 million in the past 4 years.
 - i. Privatized food service
 - ii. Restructured middle schools
 - iii. Consolidated services at WISD
 - iv. Decreased administrative positions
 - v. Reduced enrichment activities and field trips
 - d. Current projections estimate a minimum cut of \$165 per pupil for '09-'10. '10-'11 is expected to see cuts of \$200-\$400 per pupil, and the next two years are expected to cut \$400-\$600 per pupil for a total of \$15 million dollars. \$15 million dollars is equal to:
 - i. 220 staff positions eliminated
 - ii. the transportation department and 87 staff
 - iii. all specials staff eliminated
 - e. It would permanently change the education offered in Ann Arbor.
 - f. Local school districts can only raise funds through county wide millage, they can't tax themselves.
 - g. A 2-mill increase (\$11 mil./year) will only continue existing programs, not create new ones.
 - h. Strong schools prepare kids for 21st century, attract companies and families to our area, boost home prices and are the heart of a strong community.

- i. 100% of all revenue from millage will stay in Ann Arbor Public Schools and Washtenaw County.
 - j. If your home value is \$150K with taxable value of 75, then annual cost of millage would be \$150. \$200k home value, tax value 100 = \$200/year. \$250K home value, tax value 125= \$250/year. \$300K home value, tax value 150= \$300/year.
 - k. PLEASE VOTE YES on November 3rd!
 - l. If interested in volunteering or contributing money, please visit <http://a2cmc.org> OR www.wash.k12.mi.us/about/millage2009.cfm
Ballot measure is being called Proposal I.
 - m. Chris Burke is the building coordinator for Burns Park's Millage support team.
- III. VOTE: Janice Lieberman moved that the Burns Park PTO endorse the millage, Wendy Burke seconds, ALL IN FAVOR.
- IV. Steve Swaney, Co-Treasurer, Proposed Budget
- a. Currently projecting a deficit of \$2,995, but football parking, movie night and t-shirt sale can help provide additional income which is still TBD.
 - b. Projected revenue is currently down due to last years numbers.
 - c. Janice Lieberman asked question about "contributions" – \$8,000 projected based on family donations and matching employer contributions.
 - d. Current donations are \$5200, and we are short of our estimated contributions. A 2nd request for contributions will be added after the Holiday Break to get PTO visibility to families who may have missed the opportunity to donate at the beginning of the year.
 - e. It was suggested that we do a survey to determine family interest in a yearbook as it is no longer included in picture package and must be ordered separately.
 - f. School pictures profit was \$200 but since changing companies is \$2000 – the profit goes directly to the school, not PTO. It was proposed to ask the school to pay for yearbooks for families that can't afford it (instead of PTO, which has paid every year), in order to help reduce the PTO budget deficit.
 - g. VOTE: Janice Lieberman moved to approve the 2009-2010 budget, Wendy Burke seconds, ALL IN FAVOR.
- V. Lynda Norton read note from Julie Timmer thanking Greta Krapohl for all of her work on the New Family Committee.
- VI. Lynda Norton announced the Garden Workday on Sunday October 25th from 12 – 4 p.m. to plant beds of strawberries and herbs. There has been a good response for donations. Teachers will also be able to schedule their classes to plant in the garden.
- VII. Sally Pinnell announced that Dominoes Pizza will be donating the dinners (pasta, salads, bread) for the teachers and staff during Parent/Teacher conferences. Thank you Dominoes!

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Elizabeth DeRose, Secretary