

## PTA Executive Board Meeting Agenda – May 1, 2019

(Heather Rothman, Christine Galano, Amanda Provost, Jeremy Evans, Susan Chun, Deb Dasgupta, Jen Thomas, Ashley Boyle, Beth Prince)

Begin at 4:33pm

1. Hearst Autism Fund Presentation/Discussion - Ms. Geppert (on the line) and parents Judith Curry and Jillian Lusaka

Ms. G - the fund started in 2015 to help fund materials and equipment in classrooms. Sensory equipment, visuals, communications systems. Four-five years we had to spend well over the \$2K classroom allotment from the PTA to give the kids what they need. We've raised a lot from fundraising and grants and donations.

One thing we used the fund for was to support students in enrichment - we use the Autism Fund for the support. Is that something we could do with the PTA?

Jeremy - could be added to the enrichment budget but hasn't been before.

Jillian - as a parent you see the enrichment sked and it looks great but there's no support mentioned and you know your kid needs support so we are not signing up our kids for those opportunities.

Amanda- what if we take the existing enrichment scholarship and expand it to include "access to enrichment."

Christine - who would provide the support? How much money? We need context.

Jillian - last year we did this through the CES program. We set the pay per hour for helping with enrichment and looked internally. Kids on the spectrum should have access to Innis, for example. Level the playing field. Parents in CES classes also have to work and can't always be at school at 3:15pm.

Autism Fund currently has about \$4K

CES kids have different needs. Our perspective is the PTA should be looking out for our kids and all Hearst kids. And use the fund for things above and beyond. We think the PTA should pay for toner, for example. Our kids need more visual learning.

The fund was created to fill a need that the PTA wasn't filling. The PTA should have been doing it all along.

Judith - the enrichment issue has always been a thing because kids will need support. It's never going to be a lot of kids at a time. Parents shouldn't have to say "I can't put my kid in this." Ms. Thomas came up with a plan where CES parents talk to their classroom teacher and the teacher makes a recommendation. Last year it was a few kids. This year, it was none (for a variety of reasons). Enrichment is kind of a thing. Issue with spending - we didn't spend a lot this year but we spent a lot last year from the Autism Fund. Each year it depends on the kids in the classroom. Expenses ebb and flow. What change can we make and leverage it for kids in the general education program.

Jillian - trips to the community are really important for our kids. Our kids require a bus. Good for kids and socialization in society. Having the same bus budget as general education classes doesn't work for us.

Ms. Prince -we recently increased the budget in past for PreK and K because they must go on the bus. Could be a possibility for CES classes.

Principal Thomas - In the upper grades, there are walking trips and some the CES classes join the gen-ed students. Not sure how much field trip money needs to be increased because there are trips that can be done. We can look into that.

Ms. Geppert - it really is class dependent, each year.

Christine - combining the areas where you would like support, can you give a range of a low year and a high year in terms of expenses to help with planning and what programs, staffing, etc., that would support with the intent of folding that in next year?

Jeremy - how do you want to handle things? We have the PTA account and the Autism Account?

Judith - We don't know. We've discussed absorbing it into PTA budget or leaving it separate in the future. We need to collectively think through. Still keep it a separate line item.

Jillian and I - our sons will be in 5<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Most CES parents do not come to the school because their kids are bussed here.

Judith - We are thinking of sustainability. When we leave, if no one steps up, we are in trouble. We need a line item to support kids. When we're all gone and this Board is gone, will someone remember?

CES teachers and parents to give Board info requested by Christine.

2. Executive Board Elections - confirmed Ms. Prince needs to run as a community member with parents next Wed. Still need a Treasurer. Susan Chun will write something for Bloomz and room parents. Maybe have just a Treasurer and hire an outsider to be the bookkeeper? Christine to talk to Kristine Inchausti about possibly being the bookkeeper.
3. Bloomz - Christine talked to the sales rep. 1-year contract the cost goes up like 20 percent per year. A 3-year contract is about 5 percent a year. Current contract doesn't expire until end of July. Must sign the contract by end of May. Will modify the contract to say new prices don't begin until after expiration of current contract.
4. Staff Appreciation Week – May 6 - 10  
Monday is breakfast. Wednesday is cards. Friday is lunch.  
Deb will deal with food. Amanda will deal with parents.
5. Gear Sales - Ms. Boyle - me, Ms. Prince and Romesh Ratnesar met.  
No more gear sales for the year. Talking about doing in early August - like a welcome back shirt that would be in different colors and each grade would have a color and it would be the spirit shirt all year and could be used for field trips.

Also discussed the PTA buying a bunch and then selling them at tables at school.

Maybe do one item in August and one in November.

## 6. Announcements

- a. Innis Liaison Volunteer - a parent asked to be the Innis liaison but discussion followed of whether PTA needs a liaison since we don't have anything to do with the Innis-to-DCPS contract.
- b. Ms. Campbell Retirement - retirement gift card from the PTA.

#### 7. Events Update

- a. Food truck Friday - It is going to be June 7. Also Field Day.
- b. Orange Theory - still waiting on a date.
- c. Fun Run - not happening this year.
- d. Family Dining Nights - Nandos on June 4

#### 8. May PTA Meeting Agenda

End of meeting: 6:07pm