

Hearst Elementary School PTA Meeting
December 11, 2019

1. Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) – Kent Wythcombe and Jhonna Turner (introduction by Rebecca Regan-Sachs)

- a. Hearst is fortunate to have a healthy PTA
 - i. Not all schools in DCPS are as fortunate. Deal MS and Wilson HS involved in receipt of PEP benefits
- b. PEP helps to redistribute funds to schools in need of or with struggling PTAs.
- c. PEP works with schools to help establish PTAs
 - i. Example – Friends of Ketcham include parents and members of the neighboring community. Raised \$20,000 in one year for teacher grants and field trips, campaigned for teacher professional development, partnered with security company to install equipment.
 - ii. Example – Village of Brookland was established to help get the neighborhood traditional schools the resources that the neighborhood charter schools were receiving through funding and advocacy. The organization united feeder schools in Brookland, campaigned for standardized computer literacy, addressed segregated schools, and are planning to petition for a moratorium on establishment of charter schools.
- d. Liz Stuart asked if PEP was connected with entities like W3EdNet and how would the proposed bill by David Grosso affect PEP?
 - i. W3EdNet – PEP does work with entities such as this when able. Currently taking baby steps.
 - ii. Grosso bill – PEP wants to work with PTAs to advocate for equity in DCPS school budgets. At risk school particularly need help. PEP representatives have spoken to some councilmembers to discuss better ways to help schools than what the bill is proposing. Bill is not likely to get out of the Education committee.
- e. What can Hearst do?
 - i. Option 1 – Hearst could help donate PTA funds or help build a knowledge base in general manner. Would allow developing PTAs to ask questions without intimidation. Could give PEP funds through separate fundraisers or give a set percentage of PTA budget.
 - ii. Option 2 – School-to-School Initiative (Adopt a School)
 - iii. Option 3 – Direct donation to another PTA.
- f. Why are some DC schools still struggling when DC revenue is up?
 - i. Traditional schools versus charter schools have different administrative costs.
 - ii. DCPS is in need of a 10-15-30 year technology plan.
 - iii. Parents should reach out to councilmembers and/or join an education support group.

2. Enrichment/Aftercare Committee – Keri Sikich

ENRICHMENT

- a. Kaizen is out for the Spring Enrichment session
 - i. Numerous issues, including problems with communications with parents and teachers.
- b. Starting search for new enrichment management vendor or system
 - i. Need parent feedback – Survey to go out this week.
- c. Enrichment/Aftercare Committee needs more volunteers!
 - i. Keri, Mindy Farrell, and Claire Cinque will help out with spring session set-up and management
 - ii. Spring should have plenty of teacher support.
 - iii. Enrichment program is in jeopardy of not existing next school year if no volunteers come forward.
- d. Feedback/Comments/Questions
 - i. Hearst's Enrichment needs a mission and values.
 1. Does the PTA want to make money, break even, or spend money?
 - a. Currently breaks even
 2. What is the cost to break even, pay for a coordinator, etc.?
 - a. PTA funds are well-spent on a robust program
 - ii. Parents want more teacher- and parent-led classes
 1. Quality of classes – Hearst teachers better than outside vendors
 2. Buddy up parent volunteers
 3. Ask grandparents, AU students, and Hearst alumni to help
 - a. PTA help with background checks?
 - b. Ask DCPS to come out to school to do fingerprinting
 4. Call out for helpers should go out early and offer incentives
 - a. Priority enrollment
 - b. Free PTA class
 - iii. Parents want more active classes like dance and gymnastics, especially for the younger grades.
 - iv. Lower costs desirable, especially if parents are already paying for aftercare
 - v. Need one portal for enrichment class registration, one place for class descriptions
 - vi. Need better timing for lottery
 - vii. Ask favorite vendors, like Tippi Toes and language vendors, to come back
 - viii. Lean heavier on Rec to develop programming

AFTERCARE

- a. PTA tasked with potentially finding a replacement for Innis
 - i. Aftercare and Enrichment providers must work together
 - ii. Committee is researching an entity that may do both
- b. Current issues with Innis must be fixed now
 - i. Establish a working group
 - ii. Town hall with Michelle Marbury

1. Communicate who is the current interface at school
2. Transparency on who the contacts are on premises, in admin
3. Need to establish a reporting mechanism for issues
4. Need to establish a clear chain of custody of the kids
5. Parents want more structure and activities in aftercare, encourage doing homework
 - a. Cabinets of supplies for games and sports equipment
- c. Fix technology for communicating on Hearst campus (e.g. Wi-Fi, walkie talkies, etc.)
- d. Offer care on teacher professional days through day camps
- e. Aftercare program must have great availability and flexibility

Enrichment Committee will meet Tuesday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m., Tenleytown Whole Foods