

PTO Meeting Agenda/Minutes - October 10, 2017

In attendance: Sara Schneidewind, Jen McNamara, Alfildur Kristjansdottir, Tim Pinto, Suzanne Muenz, Kea Berry, Talisha Sutton, Moushumi Khan, Beth Grzelak-Lee, Kristi Allgood, Thiran Jayasundera, Carly Ly, Leslie Calhoun, Steve Craro, Mary Cooper, Yongfeng Ju, Marguerite Dillard, Brian Weisman, Linda Hagan

1. Called to order @ 6:39 pm by Sara Schneidewind
2. Minutes - Reviewed meeting minutes from June 2017 PTO meeting
  - a. Motion to approve minutes: Beth Grzelak-Lee
  - b. Seconded: Suzanne Muenz
  - c. Vote: all "ayes"
3. Community Action Network (CAN) Presentation
  - a. Steve from CAN gave a brief overview of KING/CAN relationship. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year for CAN community centers. A big thank you to the King school PTO for their past support. King school PTO is one of the most active PTOs in partnership with CAN. They hope that we will continue that partnership again this year and anyone who is interested in obtaining more information regarding CAN or volunteering can reach out to Steve (email [AAKINGPTO@gmail.com](mailto:AAKINGPTO@gmail.com) to obtain).
4. Principal Report - Mrs. Cooper
  - a. Mrs. Cooper was asked by Dr. Swift gave a presentation regarding the Special Education Millage Renewal.
  - b. The presentation and a video, can be found on the AAPS website: <https://www.a2schools.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstancelID=10&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=11494&PageID=1>
  - c. On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, voters in our Ann Arbor Public Schools community will see a question on their ballots to renew the Washtenaw ISD Special Education Millage approved by voters in 2011, currently at 0.9719 mills. Your tax rates won't increase over 2017 rates as a result of this request.
5. Teacher Report – Mrs. Hagan
  - a. The teachers are so grateful to the PTO for all you do. There are no special requests at this time.
6. Budget – Brian Weisman
  - a. Discussed last year's budget. Finished the year with a loss of around \$2000.
  - b. Current budget issues:
    - i. more students at King and therefore we will need to fill in the gap of having more students with parent donations
    - ii. This year we have to pay for our own school buses for field trips (Non-charter buses) due to cuts by the PTO Thrift shop. The teachers were able to prioritize their field trips so that the requests could be fulfilled in order of importance for each grade level.

- iii. The PTO exec board has approved a budget of \$25 per student plus a subscription to Scholastic News for each student, which is incorporated into a school priority for reading more non-fiction.
- iv. The current budget for this year is -\$13,000 deficit which is normal at this point in the school year as money has just started to trickle in. Also, each teacher is allotted their funds per student through a mini-grant but each teacher does not necessarily use all their funds and likewise with each committee. Each year this has evened out in the end and the prediction is that we'll end between -/+ \$3,000.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. AAPAC: For those unfamiliar, the meeting is for parents and teachers supporting kids with IEPs or 504 plans. The meeting is the first Monday of the month from 7-9pm. From 6:30-7pm parents can come in and speak with SISS (Student Intervention and Support Services) about their children's IEP/504 plan, how to get one, what support is available, etc. The "official" meeting begins with an introduction from Dr. Swift, following by presentations. The agenda is posted a week or so before the meeting at : <https://a2pac.wordpress.com/> Oct. 2 meeting notes: Dr. Swift spoke at the beginning about the upcoming election (Nov 7) for a RENEWAL of the special education millage. For those who recall the last election, that was for an \*increase\* in millage. This is a renewal that will keep the millage at the current level through 2025. The millage replenishes the general fund for the money used for Special Education. Special Education services are federally guaranteed and if the millage doesn't go through, the money comes from the general fund. This is a way for the districts (this is a county wide millage) to put money back into the general fund after paying for Special Education costs. The costs out of the general fund for AAPS is ~\$6million after all allocated funds are accounted for. Dr. Swift encouraged everyone to remind all their neighbors about this millage and what it supports. The next 3 presentations were intended for the well-being of parents, teachers, caregivers. The first presentation was about mindfulness and went through stages of meditation. There were 2 other similar themed presentations, including one on yoga. I would encourage parents to examine the agenda and consider going. This group is very much interested in supporting parents and children with special needs both in and out of school The next meeting is Nov 6.
- b. Bagel Friday: The first bagel Friday is this Friday at 8:10am in the MPR
- c. Book Fair: Dates are set for this year's book fair and will be Dec. 4-8 and the theme this year is Wild, Wild West
- d. Classroom Reps: This year, instead of grade level reps, we are looking for classroom reps to be liaisons between the PTO and parent's through the classrooms. We are still looking for representatives. Look for a request from your teacher in their weekly email.
- e. Disability Awareness: Workshop will be on Thursday, Nov 16 during the school day for all 4th grade classes. Many volunteers are needed! Sign up genius will be shared electronically.

- f. International Night: Doing well with parent volunteers to lead performances. Marguerite is working closely with Ms. Vanek. Shortly, kids will be able to sign up for performances. The performance will be Saturday, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at Pioneer High School.
- g. King Parents Connect: A new committee that is taking shape. This will be a forum for parents to get additional information about the King Community and also connect with other parents to discuss issues that other parent's may have. More information to come on this committee being led by Talisha Sutton and Moushumi Khan. Look for an announcement in the e-notes.
- h. Landscaping: A question arose about landscaping in the "UP" area and Mrs. Cooper stated that this is the district's responsibility to come in and finish that up. It is not the responsibility of the King Community or Landscaping committee.
  - i. There is a learning garden work day on Sunday and if the group is big enough, Marguerite can look into cleaning up the courtyard with a few of those volunteers. If not, she will re-evaluate what needs to be done after Sunday. Cleaning up the courtyards would benefit the classes who utilize them. The issue of cleaning up the courtyards can also be taken to the student council. Mrs. Hagan will pass that information along.
- i. Math Club: Registration forms have been sent out
- j. PTO Thrift Shop: As previously discussed, we have less funding this year from the PTO Thrift Shop as they are no longer funding school buses for field trips.
  - i. Please be sure to include the PTO Thrift Shop ad on all fliers that you send home because we get money for these.
  - ii. There is a raffle that will take place Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> that we can sell tickets for at events. They were sold at Harvest Moon and will be sold at Bagel Friday. The money each school sells on the tickets (\$5 each) stays with that school and the PTO Thrift Shop supplies the cash prizes for the winners.
- k. PTOC: Launch Party, Monday, Oct. 16 at Pattengill Elem. Anyone is invited to attend district PTOC meetings (monthly topics have not yet been identified). Also, a PTOC officer would be happy to attend a King PTO mtg. At September mtg, Dr. Swift have an update on how bond money has been spent
- l. Silent Auction: We will have a kick off meeting on Thursday Nov 9 to begin planning all are welcome! This is the PTO's biggest fund raiser!
- m. SIT: PTLW night is coming up on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. There is still plenty of room to register and spots available in King Care.
- n. Spirit Wear: Working towards a timeline of having product ready to be ordered in November to be delivered before the holiday season! There will be a new "softball" inspired graphic to be offered in addition to the current block font "King Elementary". All the items (t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.) will remain the same from last year.
- o. Teacher Appreciation: First Sign-Up Genius will go out Monday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> for P/T Conference dinner for teachers, which is Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>
- p. Theatrical Play: A new parent-led organization hoping to put together a group of students and get together twice a month or so to write and script a stage

production for 3-5 graders. This committee is in the planning stages and looking for parent volunteers.

- q. Traffic/Safety: This committee has taken a backseat and the issue of traffic and safety has become a school lead initiative with the PTO supporting the efforts and helping to push out the information to parents.
    - i. There was a question regarding the speed bumps and Mrs. Cooper stated that the speed bumps will not be put back but there will be another alternative to the speed bumps put in place to slow the traffic through the circle drive within the next month.
    - ii. Anyone interested in helping volunteer for traffic and safety should reach out to Mr. Humphry.
    - iii. Discussion took place around the training of the student safeties and feedback given regarding the length of shifts (currently 3 months).
  - r. Turkey Trot: The annual King School Turkey Trot will take place on Friday, November 17th. We will begin soliciting a donation from Busch's toward cost of cider. Once we have a schedule from Mrs. Arbour, we will reach out to parent volunteers for help that day.
  - s. Board of Education:
    - i. Marguerite has taken on the role of reports information from the Board of Education meetings. Three takeaways:
      - 1. **people**  
warm welcome to all students and staff from the superintendent who visited each school with special reinforcement on: crisis and mental health support; inclusive of ALL students; new AAPS hires. "lead. care. inspire\*", [\*=intentional, mindful, aware]
      - 2. **2/ infrastructure updates**  
building and roads upgrades and maintenance; new furniture for elementary schools + new piano bid.
      - 3. **3/ leadership**  
AAPS welcomes Mr Demetrious back in the same position he held until 2014 in his role as assistant superintendent finance and operations chief operations officer after 1.5 years working in Detroit Public Schools. trial period of a finance subcommittee starting september to be assessed in january 2018.
  - t. Supply Closet: The PTO is looking for volunteers to help organize the PTO supply closet. Please contact AAKingPTO@gmail.com if you are interested.
8. Meeting Adjournment @ 7:45 pm
- a. Motion to adjourn: Talisha Sutton
  - b. Seconded: Marguerite Dillard