

PTO Meeting -March 10

Attendees:

Parents: Stuart Marquis, Belinda Hsu, Sandra Wesemann, Kathryn McHugh, *Yana - Nicole's Mom*, Jingli Kiger, Cecilia Casagrande, Christy Egun, Sarah Scott, Holly Reil

Diversity and Inclusion / Budget Items

- The group meeting with Brian to plan kick-off of Diversity and Inclusion meeting looking into hiring a facilitator with experience and skill in leading discussions around diversity/inclusion and helping groups formulate goals/action items. Two people under consideration are Carlos Hoyt and Sharon Bueno Washington
- Carlos' rate is \$200/hr. Unsure at this time what Sharon's rate would be. The Board voted to re-allocate \$2000 from the Middle School initiative line item to the Diversity and Inclusion initiative as the Middle School money is not used. Cecilia Casagrande and Christy Egun will come back to the PTO with an exact budget for all anticipated expenses.

VOTED: To reallocate up to \$2,000 of Middle School Committee budgeted funds to the Diversity Committee budget in order to hire a facilitator to launch the Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. All in favor, none opposed. Passed Unanimously.

BUDGET

- Support of Performing Arts at Lincoln was budgeted at \$1,000, a reduction from a historic line item of \$2,000 - \$2,500 due to the fact that initiative had not yet been planned. However the school has identified 3 performances and will need the \$2,500. Performances are:
Mykoto Japanese Story Teller at \$900 (2nd and 3rd grade)
Romeo and Juliette at \$580 (8th grade)
Poetry Slam (Middle School) \$1,000
The goal of the committee is to support the teachers in bringing cultural arts to Lincoln.

VOTED: To increase the Performing Arts Line item by \$1,500. All in favor, none opposed. Passed Unanimously.

Directory Update

- My School Anywhere software is the new system Stuart looked into - it is currently used by BHS and one other K-8 school.
- It's much easier to use than the PTO's current system, PTOOffice
- The only issue is that the system doesn't allow for two last names - there can be one family last name. If the two last names are hyphenated, you can use both last names.
- The timeline for implementing this would ideally be before the end of this school year. Then in the fall parents would go in and update their records, and do that annually.

Enrichment

- Enrichment and Challenge Support (ECS), is a district-wide program that supports classroom teachers in providing challenging curriculum and extension opportunities to all students. (aka the PSB Challenge Framework) Every Brookline K-8 school has a part time ECS resource specialist on staff. A coordinator (Matt Rosenthal) works at the district level across all schools.
- <http://ecsbrookline.weebly.com/about.html>
- The program was revised two years ago from a model that pulled kids out of the classroom for advanced learning to one that works in the classroom with the teachers to provide enrichment to the whole class. Teachers and the ECS Resource Teacher work with the teacher to plan a challenging curriculum and to support the teacher with professional development in this area.
- The ECS Resource Coordinator for Lincoln is Mies Boet. She is located in the basement in the small office outside of the computer room. She works part time, 3 days a week and currently works with K-5 and one 6th grade Math class.
- How are students capable of advanced work being served? The model has shifted to serving these students through an integrated continuum of support by working with the teacher to provide a challenging curriculum for all. Is differentiation getting at every child's needs? To see how it's supposed to work parents can go to the ECS web page: <http://ecsbrookline.weebly.com/challenge-framework.html>
- The program works by incorporating collaborators to supplement the classroom experience. These collaborators are math/literacy specials, technology specialists, librarians, guidance, etc. But is it working?

- Now that each student gets enrichment support, some parents are reporting that kids who used to be targeted for enrichment now feel bored and unchallenged. While the vision of the new enrichment program is great, implementation has been difficult and it must be supported by resources and differentiation in the classroom.
- The PTO budget supports enrichment activities at the school. The PTO will follow up with administration to see how these resources can be used to support the initiatives.
- In 2014-2015 it was used to support differentiation for K-5 math differentiated stations; PTO will explore a request with Administration to use some of the funds toward math differentiation in the middle school.
- PTO liaisons to the Enrichment challenge and Support Parent Advisory Committee are Xiaofang Li for k-5 and Kathryn McHugh for 6-8.
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Bylaws

- A PTO BY law Committee was formed last year to revise and update the PTO bylaws. Our bylaws outline our organizational rules.
- Kathryn to send side by side will circulate the old bylaws and the update, so people can see them side by side and any questions should be circulated to the By Law Committee via Sandra.

PTO Priorities

- The PTO priorities outlined earlier this year are:
 - Focusing on enrichment / learning differentiation
 - Supporting diversity/inclusion initiative
 - Updating the bylaws
 - Making the PTO more robust - getting more parents involved: a group will meet next week to discuss the committee "lay-out" for the PTO moving forward. Cecilia, Sandra, Holly, Wendy, and anyone else who is interested