

K-5 STEM at Boren PTA
Meeting Minutes – Pending Approval
November 13, 2014, 6:30-8:00pm in the Boren Library

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:32pm with 33 attendees.

II. PRINCIPAL UPDATE

- **Arts Impact:** Arts Impact just received a Department of Education grant that might impact how we work with them. Details are to be determined – Ben is actively working with them on the implementation of their program at STEM.
- **Math curriculum:** Math in Focus (MiF) is a key part of the staff's monthly collaborative time (4 hours/month). Ben has a meeting scheduled with the school's math curriculum director to discuss the challenges we've had with adopting MiF and some options to address them (including going back to Singapore Math). Addressing this will continue to be a staff focus through January, there are some long-term budgetary impacts that need to be considered. Ben noted that we are adopting MiF at a relatively fast pace (even though it may seem slow to parents). He also noted that teachers have been encouraged to use a variety of supplemental resources, including Singapore Math, when teaching math to their students.
- **K-8:** The *current* status is that we are moving forward with a sixth grade for next year. This will not be finalized until there is approval of contingency plans for capacity (taking into consideration enrollment projections). Ben is actively meeting with District staff to determine exactly how this will happen. A K-8 Exploratory Team has been meeting since the summer to do preliminary planning work. Their next meeting is open to all STEM community members and will be at 5:30pm on Thursday, December 4 (before the PTA meeting). Another meeting intended specifically for 5th grade families to talk about what the first year looks like will be scheduled for before Winter break. Moving into January, discussions will expand to cover what STEM as a K-8 will look like, beyond the first year.

III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- President (Wendy Warborg)
 - Direct Give results: \$31,495 as of today! Five funding priorities:
 - Tools for literacy, including classroom guided reading and independent library materials. Librarian Mary Bannister gave an overview of the tools and materials we've been able to purchase with funds raised by the PTA
 - Professional development for PBL
 - STEM resources (consumables not provided by the District)
 - Art support
 - Community building and safety
 - Calendar changes: November 20th game night has been canceled. Performing Arts night has been moved to January 22nd.
- Vice President (Rebecca Garcia)
 - Volunteer openings:
 - Advocacy – someone who will follow education legislation and policy issues
 - Book Fair
 - Safety Committee
 - Library always needs help
 - Yearbook (with Yuen Lui) – contact Mercedes
- Treasurer (Anne Higuera)
 - IRS Form 990 will be filed on 11/14/14

- Budget update: Direct Give came in under goal but we budgeted conservatively so we don't need to make any significant changes to our approved budget.
- Secretary (Lisa Dawson)
 - Membership update: 161 members total (125 voting, 36 nonvoting)
- BLT (Kathleen Voss, Mercedes Diggs)
 - Holidays and school celebrations: Kathleen and Mercedes will be part of a policy conversation with staff with the intent of creating consistency (and STEM traditions) when determining which holidays are celebrated in the school.

IV. COMMITTEE & COORDINATOR REPORTS

- Grants & Corporate Sponsorship (Heidi Alessi, Chair) – working with the school to understand the school needs and priorities, and make sure the opportunities we pursue are aligned. This committee needs more volunteers!
- Auction (Lisa Dawson) – March 28 at The Hall at Fautleroy. Has been selected, procurement letters will go out to last year's donors in the next two weeks. Lisa will send an email to volunteers to schedule the first formal meeting.
- Library (Helen Green, Coordinator)
 - Book Fair 12/10-12
 - Need volunteers! There will be a volunteer meeting on Monday (11/17) at 2pm at Chaco Canyon
- PTA Website (Michelle Johnson and Leah LaCivita)
 - Thank you Helen and Debbie!
- Communications (Robin Graham)
- Before & After School Enrichment (Linnea Seidelmann)
 - Great turnout for Fall! Lots of participants, but no one was turned away.
 - Winter program will begin on January 5 and run for eight weeks. Program will be published in December, with a rolling enrollment (watch for more information).
- Playground (L'Nayim Austin)
 - Team has formed to re-imagine our playground. They are working on a master plan that would lead to grant writing, fundraising (especially for grant matching fund requirements) for playground improvements.
 - Existing play structure wall is already starting to sag, so they are talking to the District about getting capital funds to replace it.
 - Volunteers needed!

V. NEW BUSINESS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS

- WinterFest: Gingerbread house engineering project and competition is being pitched to teachers. Volunteers needed on the day-of (12/11)

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Positive Discipline class for parents on 11/18. Series begins on January 7.
- **Next PTA meeting: Thursday, December 4 at 6:30pm**
- K-8 STEM Exploratory Team meeting (open to everyone): Thursday, December 4 at 5:30pm
- Winterfest: Thursday, December 11

VII. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:57pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Dawson, PTA Secretary.