

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

The Parent Teacher Association of The Neighborhood School General Meeting

Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019

Type: Monthly General Meeting

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Notice Provided in Advance: Yes

Location: TNS PTA Room

Meeting called to order at 8:35am.

Agenda:

1. Approval of [previous minutes](#)
 - a. Approved.
2. Approval of minutes for special election
 - a. Approved.
3. Principal updates
 - a. Professional Development days
 - There are lots of PD days in June. School understands the challenge for families and appreciates the support.
 - Tuesday, June 18th is a PD day for teachers to focus on student portfolios and to work on narrative reports. Wingspan and University Settlement are offering coverage.
 - b. Shifts in class configurations
 - Discussed details of class shifts, also covered in recent emails: 2nd/3rd grade will have 3 ICT classrooms, each with 2 teachers.
 - c. Lunch updates
 - Back on alternative menu, with classic menu options also offered 2 days a week. This is the approach that TNS and STAR principals are proposing for next year.
 - Town meeting planned for June 24th at 8:30 am with both school principals, Harvey Epstein, our superintendent, and someone from the district office, open to both school communities. Please attend and share thoughts on this proposal.
 - d. Library updates
 - Cheryl will continue as TNS librarian next year. This is 50% of her position. No updates as of yet about the other 50% for STAR. TNS principal is asking the district to help resolve this asap.
 - PTA encourages parents to reach out to the district office to advocate for a resolution. PTA discussed authoring a collective letter, on behalf of both TNS and STAR communities.
 - e. Enrollment updates
 - Enrollment for pre-K and K is managed centrally. TNS pulls from a waitlist based on District 1 priorities. School has not yet pulled anyone from the waitlist.

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- TNS can accept students into 1st - 5th grades mainly based on attrition. For next year, school is pulling in some 1st and 3rd graders to balance our K/1st and 2nd/3rd grade classrooms. Not adding any students to 4th/5th grade classrooms.
4. President updates
- a. Outgoing PTA presidents reviewed year's progress and welcomed incoming PTA exec board. Incoming PTA exec board thanked outgoing board for year's service.
 - b. Jenny Ulloa (outgoing co-pta president) will continue to lead Wellness Committee next year and will join SLT. Wellness and Bullying will be a focus. Recommended families to participate and join the Diversity committee.
 - c. Budget surplus
 - PTA will end year with surplus, likely more than 10k.
 - Discussed options for using some of surplus this year:
 - September STAR/TNS parent workshop and tasting, lead by Wellness in Schools.
 - Purchasing new iPads for the library, for learning/research with 2/3/4/5 grade classrooms. Current tech is old. Cheryl has expressed need for upgrades/new tech for a long time. Historically, it's been difficult to get grant money for this purpose, and DOE gives money more readily for books than tech.
 - Supporting getting second adult in K/1st grade classrooms. As of now, next year's PTA budget funds 1 assistant for K/1st grade classrooms. School believes in the importance of having 2 adults in these classrooms. Principal emphasized this as a particular point of attraction for prospective families.
 - d. Vote: \$1250 for September STAR/TNS parent workshop and tasting.
 - Approved by majority.
 - e. Vote: \$250 for lunch for teachers on last day of school.
 - Approved by majority.
 - f. Vote: \$4000 for tech updates in library.
 - Rejected by majority.
5. Reviewed [Treasurer's report](#)
6. 2019-2020 budget
- a. Incoming exec board discussed recent meetings and progress on the 2019-2020 budget. Took as input the recommendations from the outgoing board but decided to raise the budget back to this year's level, in the hope that a focus on community building can make fundraising efforts and events sustainable. Discussed minor increases to revenue expectations for some events and mostly continuing expenses from this year.
 - b. Incoming exec board emphasized that the budget is still a work in progress, as they ran out of time and haven't yet had discussions with all committees. Also emphasized that

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the PTA can change the budget with a vote at a future general meeting and that the board is aware of open issues/questions in the community (second teaching assistant for K/1st grade, etc.) and is committed to doing more work.

- c. Vote on adoption current draft of 2019-2020 budget.
 - o Approved by majority.
7. Farm trip update
 - a. Incoming PTA decided to support the Farm Trip, and a deposit check has been approved and written with a FY20 date, 7/1/2019.
8. School psychologist
 - a. School psychologist is taking maternity leave next year. This is a very important staff member for both TNS and STAR (shared). Principals are advocating to be part of the interview process to ensure whoever is hired can handle the responsibilities.
9. Nurse
 - a. Nurse Sarah will be back at TNS next year!
10. Events/committee updates
 - a. Diversity
 - o Discussed workshops the committee sponsored the past few years on helping parents talk to kids about race. This year, the focus was on the intersectionality between race and gender. The committee recommended the [Ackerman Institute](#) for workshops with TNS teachers, who have expressed positive feedback so far. Plan for next year is to offer similar workshops for families and other staff.
 - o Discussed the false assumption that, because TNS is a “progressive” school, there is no need to focus on issues of diversity and equity. Emphasized that our school is not immune to bullying due to otherness and that it is important for more TNS parents to actively participate in Diversity and foster conversations with kids.
 - o Discussed options for encouraging greater involvement/representation in the committee, including a per grade or per class Diversity liaison.
 - b. Spring jam
 - o Event was fun and a success, thanks to all of the parents who volunteered.

Adjourned at 9:55am.