

## MINUTES OF THE BRIDGE PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Held on September 10, 2014 at Bridge School**

PTA Executive Committee Members Present: Cathy Smith (Co-President), Stephanie Mitzenmacher (Co-President), Tricia Weisberg (Treasurer), Christie King (Secretary), Heather Tashjian, Lindsey Wedell, Nancy Tentindo, Lilliam Gomez-Martinez, Angela Chang

Proceedings:

Cathy Smith called meeting to order at 1:35pm.

Principal Colella answered questions:

- A) More focus groups will be formed for search for new Superintendent.
- B) Principal has canister to catch new gas-like smell to determine what it is. Waiting for results.
- C) Enrollment is above capacity. Next week there are two school committee meetings. We are currently at 588 students. Clark will also be affected by this. A short term solution needs to be found in addition to a long term. Principal will be meeting with Superintendent next week about this. Recommendations will be coming out next Wednesday. Bridge should have a community meeting after next week to discuss the findings and issues. Although many classes are at 25 kids that is still within the school guidelines. Enrollment and capacity groups have to make recommendations quickly if changes to buildings need to be made. Kindergarten is difficult to project. 1st - 5th is easier to project. There are 119 students currently at Bridge from Avalon.

Question about Fiske and Estabrook being over capacity - Fiske houses special needs classrooms that require additional space. Estabrook is not over capacity currently. Concern is that it will be soon based on projections. They do have extra classrooms right now but the thought is that they won't in another year.

Question about modulars - The immediate concern is Bridge and Bowman needing more classroom space, cafeteria, art & music, and gym space. Waiting to hear recommendations from meetings next week.

Stephanie makes motion to approve meeting minutes from August 19, 2014. Trish seconds. All in favor.

Budget review given by Tricia Weisberg.

Income - Target check was lower than expected. Will promote registering card in Bridge to Home. More money has come in for Legacy Bricks.

Expenses - Landscaping costs will be over budget. Teacher's Purse is now \$150 and teachers need to be notified.

Fifth grade had \$2000 but spent \$1000 on raffle baskets bringing them down to \$1000.

Curriculum Enhancements added to budget over summer to augment curriculum separately from ACT. Principal will ask for suggestions from teachers. Idea is for a full grade or section, not just one class at a time to benefit.

#### Executive Committee Liaisons and Updated Committee Chairs -

Metco & YES (Jane Chang) now have chairs as does Safe Routes to School. International Night still needs a co-chair. Nancy will reach out to new chair. Parents Night Out doesn't have a chair and neither does Spring Fling. Next year will try to have Larry do YES without PTA assistance. Box Tops is part of Fifth Grade Committee.

Science Night needs to pick a date and send it to PTA and front office (Gail). Will plan to hold at Bridge.

Community Service - Gift card drive goes through PTA board. Holiday gift drive and card making is done by Community Service Committee.

#### Fundraising:

Square One Arts seems to be going well.

Spirit Wear is considering buying a display case for the bestsellers. Meg said it was ok to have a case. Could also use case for Square One. Spirit Wear is looking at doing car magnets as well - 50% profit margin.

Entertainment type coupon book fundraiser - nothing goes home. Send home the info in a Bridge to Home and then people can go online to order. Marina Levitt will do.

Game Night - Community comes and plays Gamewright games and then can buy games. We would get a percentage of sales.

Walkathon - It can't happen during school day. Might do next year for 50th Year Anniversary in addition to a Run.

#### Communication:

Updates to the website go through Sarah Nathan. All the committee information still needs to be updated. Lisa handles Bridge to Home and Facebook.

#### Calendar:

Liaisons need to contact chairs to get dates on calendar. Dates then go to Cathy and Gail (in Front Office). Need to start trying to schedule dates for next year as well.

#### Presidents' Updates:

Busing is up 50%. Only one new bus has been added though. Reports that kids may be sitting on the floor of the bus which is not supposed to be allowed. Routes are also taking longer.

Meg asked about parent volunteers for Pick Up / Drop Off again. Need to make sure parents don't wait at Front Door at Pick Up. Should put some signage up at Front Door because it's a safety issue. These issues also need to be brought up at Enrollment Meeting. School Committee meetings next week are Tuesday the 16th and Wednesday the 17th. Will send out Special Announcement notifying people of the School Committee meetings.

#### Field Day T-Shirts:

Meg suggested putting the cost in at the beginning of the year when asking for money for other things - about \$25-\$40 from each family. Depends on the individual teacher as to what they want to do. Room parents need to check with teachers. Cathy will email room parents some info about it. Tricon may be a good resource for the t-shirts.

#### Custodial/Rental Fees:

\$1400 school budget plus our own \$1000. Meg will waive rental fees for Bridge for us. We will have to consider Custodial Fees when planning. Last year other schools pooled their unused school budget money to help cover each others' fees.

#### Fifth Grade Activities Update:

Jean, Fran, Heather, and Rebecca are meeting 9/10/14. Concerns expressed about \$1000 having already been spent on raffles. Monster Carnival time should be modified. Scheduled for Oct. 25.

#### ACT / Square One Update:

ACT will meet with Meg and teachers soon.

#### Membership:

Numbers coming out soon. Will have a membership table out at Curriculum Night.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by Christie King, PTA Secretary