

February 12, 2013

Franklin-Randall PTO Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members present: Scott Dunahee, Noelle LoConte, David McMurray, Beth O'Callaghan, Suzanne Swift, Soraya Willems-Neal

Administrators present: Britta Hanson, John Wallace

Guests: Jinger Schroeder, Colleen Howes, Andres Garcia

Call to order: 7:25p

Thank you notes for teacher appreciation gifts were passed around.

1. **Minutes** – January 2013 meeting minutes approved.
2. **“60 second updates”** –
 - a. **Playground (Britta):** The playground committee continues to secure major donors. There will be a change in leadership for the committee and the timeline for moving forward is uncertain.
 - b. **Carnival (Suzanne):** The F-R School Carnival will take place this Saturday, February 16th from 11:30a-3:00p at Randall School. There is new leadership for the carnival this year, and volunteers are still greatly needed to assist with the festivities. Principals plan to be involved as do many teachers and staff members. Board members and meeting attendees were especially encouraged to volunteer, and to have their child or children assist them.
 - c. **Kindergarten play dates (Soraya):** Under Soraya's leadership, a committee of 4k parents will meet on Friday, February 15th to discuss dates, format, and other logistics for the kindergarten play dates planned for this summer. As the progress on the playground is unclear, other locations for the play dates are being sought, including the Franklin gymnasium, local beaches and the Randall playground. If renovations for the Franklin playground do not proceed then the play dates may still happen there. It was noted if the final location is a public park the group may need to secure a parks permit.
 - d. **Language Program (Suzanne):** It was noted that the board approved a small budget expenditure to cover requests for scholarships that exceeded what had been previously budgeted for. Summary data from a Wisconsin Youth Company survey will be made available to the board for review shortly.
 - e. **Childcare for PTO Meetings: (Noelle):** The board has hired a babysitter for the remaining PTO meetings of the 2012-2013 year. She is a Junior at the UW and has gone through all requisite background and security checks. Three children were cared for during this meeting. There was discussion of extending her time to cover the board meeting as well.

3. **Grant update (Noelle)** – Announcements regarding the spring grant cycle went out to F-R community members in multiple formats (newsletter, staff boxes, list serve, newsletter). To date, the committee has received one proposal, with accompanying letters of support. The Review Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 6th, from 4-6pm. Principals will reach out to their staff members in the meantime to see if there is any additional interest in securing grants this spring.

4. **Remaining PTO meeting topics (Suzanne)** – Three meetings remain for this academic year. The March meeting will cover literacy curriculum, the April meeting will cover math curriculum and the May meeting will cover how classroom assignments are made. There was brief discussion on whether these were still appropriate topics given the course of the year and the discussions that have taken place. For example, last year it was noted that the food/nutrition meeting was not heavily attended, while the program outlining the Positive Behavior Support program was very popular.

It was noted that for the March and April meetings, the speakers should not only consider how the curriculum will look under the new Common Core State Standards, but also address how to maintain a focus on academics through the summer months (i.e. reading lists, conversation topics). The principals were also in support of the May meeting as it is an opportunity to share information with parents, teachers and staff about how the schools plan for educational continuity for each child.

Beth will organize the April Meeting and Noelle will organize the May meeting. Suzanne will follow up with the lead organizer for the March meeting.

5. **Unity Day update (John Wallace)** – Each fall and spring, Randall hosts “Unity Day” which frees up teachers to perform reading and math assessments and provides students with a unique, mixed-grade educational opportunity. Volunteers put together short, high-interest programs for students. With the support of the PTO, John is currently seeking additional parent volunteers. John has ensured that all volunteers will go through appropriate background check and security protocols. He will also help guide the content, format and schedule of the 25-minute sessions. Parent volunteers may be either presenters or supervisors. No date is set yet for the spring Unity Day. It was suggested that Mary Sadker may be able to encourage volunteers for Super Science Saturday to also participate in Unity Day.

Adjourn 7:55p

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth O’Callaghan, Secretary