

March 12, 2013

Franklin-Randall PTO Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members present: Eileen Kennedy, Elizabeth Kerwin, Noelle LoConte, David McMurray, Beth O'Callaghan, Jason Speich, Suzanne Swift, Soraya Willems-Neal

Administrators present: Britta Hanson, John Wallace

Guests: Mike McLain

Call to order: 7:05p

Thank you notes for teacher appreciation gifts were passed around.

1. **Minutes** – February 2013 meeting minutes approved.
2. **Financial Update (Jason)** – A brief overview of the budget was provided. It was noted that this was the highest amount awarded during a spring grant cycle to-date.
3. **Grant Decisions (Noelle)** – The full board discussed the recommendations of the Grants Committee (which met on March 6, 2013). Discussion items included which grants were recommended for funding, which were not, and any modifications to grant award amounts. The Grants Committee had requested multiple follow-up items and information from those conversations was shared with the full board. The amount awarded this cycle was just under \$8,000.

With unanimous approval by the board, the 2013 Spring Grant Awardees were:

- 1) Kati Walsh (\$350) for an after school TAG arts program.
- 2) Shannon Dolan (\$2,500) for tablet technology at Franklin.
- 3) Michelle Reis-Olson (\$1,800) for a presentation station at Randall. Randall school is also contributing \$400 from book sales towards the full cost of the item.
- 4) Suzanne Buchko (\$250) to begin a PEG or other support group for parents of students with special needs.
- 5) Jone' Kiefer (\$2,000) for Digital Learning Professional Development at Randall.
- 6) Dan and Amy Scanlon (\$650) for Franklin grounds improvements.

The grant requests that did not receive funding were either funded with money from other sources, or the individuals making the request will be provided with constructive feedback on why their request was not funded during this cycle. Each grant recipient will be notified by the Grants Committee Chair of the PTO Board funding decisions via e-mail. Announcements regarding the spring grants will appear on the PTO newsletter and list serve.

It was noted that the grant process this spring – which piloted a new evaluation rubric for grants – was very thoughtful, mindful and rigorous. Thanks were expressed to Noelle LoConte for chairing the Grants Committee and Beth O'Callaghan for assisting with the evaluation rubric.

4. **Financial Controls (Jason)** – Discussion on financial controls was postponed to the April Board meeting. Items for discussion include: account access, debit card limits, bank statement review, account alerts, check writing/withdrawal controls and bank transfer limits.
5. **Board Recruitment (Suzanne)** – Each March a board recruitment committee is formed to develop a slate of candidates for election to the board for the following school year. Elections are held at the May meeting. Elizabeth Kerwin, Beth O’Callaghan and David McMurray have volunteered for the committee and will begin the solicitation process for prospective new members shortly. The committee will first begin by asking for nominations from existing board members, principals and finally the full PTO membership. At this time position openings include: PTO President, Treasurer, and multiple At-Large positions, including fundraising and volunteer committee chair positions.
6. **“60 second updates”** –
 - a. **Playground (Britta):** The playground committee continues to secure major donors. UW Health Foundation has committed to a \$5,000 gift for the future renovation efforts. There will be a change in leadership for the committee and the timeline for moving forward is uncertain at this time. No work will be done on the Franklin playground this summer.
 - b. **Kindergarten play dates (Soraya):** Notifications about the play dates were included in the Kindergarten registration packets, however it was noted that might not be the best venue for advertising as there is already so much other information provided to parents at that time. Another attempt to provide information to parents about the play dates will take place at orientation in May.
 - c. **Language Program (Suzanne):** Summary data from a Wisconsin Youth Company survey was made available for board for review.
7. **Other Business** – Soraya reported on the recent meeting of the African-American Parent Empowerment Group. It was noted that the group had a good turn out and everyone enjoyed themselves. Amy Turkowski (Franklin teacher) was a great facilitator and participant-leader. The group continues to discuss their title because the group is composed a diverse group of people that do not all identify as African-American.

Suzanne also raised the topic of having a ‘preferred pizza provider’ for Franklin Randall events. The owners of Roman Candle pizza have expressed an interest in providing this service. The PTO and schools budget a minimum of \$2,000/year for pizza at various events/meetings.

Adjourn 8:16p

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth O’Callaghan, Secretary