

Franklin-Randall PTO Board Meeting 10/8/13 Minutes – DRAFT

Board Members Present: Dawn Gebler, Elizabeth Kerwin, Dan Julie, Noelle LoConte, David McMurray, Jinger Schroeder, Beth O’Callaghan, Soraya Willems-Neal, Donna Wong

Administrators present: Britta Hanson, John Wallace

1. Call to Order 7:39
2. Approve September Minutes (Noelle) – Approved without modifications
3. Financial Update (Dan) – Tax return for last fiscal year was filed. We did have ~\$1,100 additional expenses from last year that have come in after the June 30th end of fiscal year. Spring grants carry-over \$4000.21, not spent, but will be spent this year. Deposits from first few football games have gone into the account. Current balance around \$27,000 now.
4. Curriculum Night Debrief – (Beth) – post event meeting will be happening, details will come in an email. Discussion about lower turn out for the 5th grade classroom. 45 people came and signed in. Kindergarten, first and second grade classes had higher attendance. Promotion of the event could be strengthened. Discussion about combining open house and curriculum night.
5. Grants Program Update (Noelle) – Recommend deadline/reminders to grants recipients.

Noelle to contact Dan and Amy Scanlon. Raised beds.

Noelle to provide reminders the week before the grants are due. Including email to PTO teacher liason.

Email to Britta to have it translated. Make apt with Britta

6. Spring Grant Reallocation Discussion (Beth) – Kiefer project approved last grant cycle happened late this summer, but it differed from the approved request. The grant recipient requested reallocation from 6 to 4 teachers, and stipend from \$300 to \$500. The recipient did not request a priori approval for these changes. Experts did participate, but donated their time, so that cost was deducted from the original budget. The product from the PD event is noted to be strong and is continuing to

be rolled out in the Randall School. Discussion about reinforcing expectations around the grant. Project was innovating. Grant recipient was notified in email about the requirements for the grant, but perhaps we could do better about reinforcing the rules with the recipient.

Board votes and 6 voted yea, 1 voted nay, and 2 abstained. Beth will check to see if this is a quorum.

7. 60 second updates (Beth & Soraya)
 - a. Fall/Winter Dance – 3 coordinators, and the dance will happen!
 - b. Fall Campaign start date – October 11 – It is up and running now online and Paypal and also checks coming in to schools
 - c. Dinner for teachers next fall @ Open House – Soraya proposed buying dinner for the Franklin teachers on the day of open house. Another idea is to provide meals during parent-teacher conferences. Dawn will explore these options.
 - d. Book/Discussion Circle for November – topic is bullying – Weds Nov 30, 5-7 pm, Lakeside Coffeehouse
 - e. Bulk school supply purchasing program – parent is interested in organizing this. Idea is to reduce the cost by buying in bulk and being a tax-free purchase. Tentatively will be presented at December PTO meeting. Quality of the products can be variable.
 - f. Diversity initiative update – Parent is interested in doing an “Inclusion Initiative”. Right now there is a small group of interested parents who are discussing. Updates to come.
 - g. “No Idle Zone” initiative – Parent discussed how delivery trucks, cars, buses idle by playground and over winter, also “warm up” the bus 15 minutes before kids get on the bus and to keep the moisture off the windows. This would be an initiative initially at both Franklin and Randall, but the vision is to bring it district wide. Do the signs get into the bus company policy? At the Thoreau school, which did this last year, the buses did not have to honor the signs.
 - h. Foreign Language program: Scholarship deadline extended to 10/8/13. We are down 16% in enrollment in Franklin kids, Randall is the same. Citywide is

down 1/3 to 1/2 in enrollment, the thought is this is due to no paper flyers going home in Friday Folders. Scholarship rate is 7% at Franklin-Randall. Need to have at least 6 kids to have each class take place. Will the PTO subsidize the classes that are under-enrolled? Discussion that the PTO should not be subsidizing the Wisconsin Youth Company programs. We would continue to support scholarships.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 pm