

Franklin–Randall PTO Board Meeting 2/11/13 Minutes – DRAFT

Board Members Present: Dawn Gebler, Kelly Hamilton, Dan Julie, Noelle LoConte, David McMurray, Jinger Schroeder, Beth O’Callaghan, Soraya Willems–Neal, Donna Wong, Cindy Schlichte

Others Present: Eric Olive, Suzanne Buchko, Tara Wallace, Jani Kiester, Peg Murray

Administrators present: John Wallace, Britta Hanson

1. **Call to Order** 7:22 pm
2. **December and January minutes** approved as submitted
3. **Financial update** (Dan) – Still a lot of expenses yet to be invoiced. We have about \$33,000 yet to spend this year. Roughly \$30,000 has not yet been spent but has been budgeted.
4. **Mindfulness classes** (Noelle and Suzanne Buchko) – Suzanne provided an update about the Mindfulness Class she would teach at Franklin–Randall. There were some questions about where she was trained, which she answered. It would utilize a standardized curriculum. The class would be intentionally limited in size. There was a movement for the PTO to support this class to allow Suzanne to use a room at Randall and one at Franklin. It would be no more than \$10/family with four classes over four weeks for up to 30 people, and the funds would be used for supplies. John Wallace offered to help cover the per family cost for this pilot program. It would be a class for parents and kids. Suzanne is open for co-facilitators. Motion was for the PTO to support this pilot program through June 2014. The motion passed.
5. **School Supply Initiative Update** (Eric and Donna) – Eric provided an update for the teacher survey for the collective supply–purchasing program. An e–mail survey was sent to the teachers. Most were supportive of the program with a few dissenters. There were 32 respondents out of 47 teachers. 84.3% were supportive of a collective program. 76% supported a single supply list. 93% supported non–instructional supplies being purchased in this way (Kleenex, wipes, hand sanitizer, etc.) The next step is going to be a parent survey. Discussion about logistics (when order has to be in, etc.) and what the next steps will be. The orders will need to be placed and received before the first day of school.

6. Discussion of Franklin–Randall PTO support for TEP or local families (Kelly) There was some interest which emerged in the last few months in helping homeless/transitional families at Franklin–Randall and within MMSD in general. There are currently 1,100 homeless or transitional kids in the MMSD. There are currently 5 students at Randall who are homeless, and 9 at Franklin who are homeless. This is determined at the time of enrollment. The TEP (Transition Education Program) staff provided an update about their MMSD program and supports. Among other things, these kids get the supplies, clothes, food, etc., that they need. Peg M. commented that Franklin–Randall already does a really good job of meeting these basic needs with TEP’s support. Enrichment is much harder for a multitude of reasons. A scholarship for these kids to go to After School would be a critical need. (Transportation can likely be arranged.) After School, Inc. has reduced down to 50% of full rate, but will not waive fees for homeless/near-homeless kids. (For schools that have an MSCR after school program, their fees can be waived, but F–R is not one of these sites.) Other schools have “Social Justice” funds for social work or support staff use for things such as paying off the balance for meals, gas cards, hotel bills. This would offer a “rapid response” for families acutely in need. Another need was for the kids to be able to stay in our schools for the whole year if they move. Mostly this is done through transportation from their new home to Franklin–Randall. Older kids can sometimes use the bus, but younger kids would need a cab which can be costly.

Peg noted some other needs are to help parents pay the students’ lunch bills (at both schools). These would be non-free or reduced lunch families. Staff and lunch personnel pay this bill. Usually this happens when the families’ free/reduced lunch status changes (were getting free/reduced and now don’t).

Britta discussed ways to help these children and families feel a part of our community. We should make these kids feel “welcome, wanted and safe.” Britta also noted that there is a need for the families that do find housing to have furnishings, bedding, etc. to get themselves established.

It was noted that school staff currently often give their own money to support kids and families in need. There was also a discussion about staff using the F–R listserv for needs for families – the general sense was that our community would like to help, but don’t know how or what is needed. Noelle offered to help Peg with these “asks”.

7. **60 second updates:**

a. Salad Bar at Randall – A parent inquired about getting the salad bar unit currently housed at Randall stocked and in service for student use. Beth contacted Steve Youngbauer at the district, and the estimate to bring Randall school up to code to use the salad bar is \$20,000. While many other elementary, middle and high schools have salad bar units currently in service, the district is a long ways off from being able to support the necessary infrastructure work at Randall. Given the age of the building, the required electrical, refrigeration and plumbing upgrades are extensive. If the PTO works to raise funds, or secure donations, the district would be happy to assist the PTO in getting the salad bar unit up and running. If parents are interested in pursuing this initiative (fundraising, grant writing, organizing, etc.) they are encouraged to contact Beth for more details.

b. Upcoming PTO events and dates

- i. Winter Carnival 2/15 at 11:30, **volunteers needed**
 - ii. Race to Equity presentation, 2/25/14 at 6:30 pm at Franklin LMC
 - iii. Randall Movie Night, 2/28 at 7 pm (doors open at 6:40 pm), “The Iron Giant”
 - iv. Super Science Saturday, 3/8 at Randall
 - v. March PTO Meeting, Technology, 3/11 at Randall
- c. Foreign Language Program Planning Initiative – Elizabeth is concerned that there may not be FL offered next year. She will explore how other schools operate this program and present to the board about options.
- d. PTO Board Nominations Committee to form in March/April – Soraya and Beth will be setting this up.
- e. Several new Girls on the Run teams have been formed for Randall for this Spring.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Noelle LoConte, PTO Secretary