

## ▼ PTO Board meeting 12/12

- Attending: Megan Spicer, Jess Cook, Colleen Moss, Sylla Z, Karen Dreyfuss, Sharon White, Anne Neujahr-Morrison, John Wallace, Adam Hirsch, Erin McMillan, Lindsay Feitlinger
- Guest attending: Beth O'Callahan, from the Foundation for Madison Public Schools
- Motion to approve minutes from Nov. meeting moved and seconded.

### ▼ Fall Fundraising update:

- Looking like we're going to wind up at around \$17-18K instead of the hoped-for \$22K
- Because we promise people that we'll only ask for funds 1x year, we'll have to figure out some more subtle fundraising for the second half of the year
- Last year we raised a really huge \$29K, so we aimed for something we thought reasonable..
- Discussion about how much the WSJ press piece about the parking affected giving this year - some?
- Suggestion that the campaign could/should have increased multi-modality
- Using the school email lists worked well last year, but needs to be done carefully
- Possibly giving school swag for parents at particular gift levels?
- People really like giving money for specific projects or goals
- Erin mentions the idea of doing a flash-dash style event and opening it up to other MMSD schools to show engagement and solidarity — maybe with MSCR involvement?
- Suggestion: get another email out by end of year, emphasize specific project goals for this \$\$ round
- Maybe people will give a second time?

### ▼ Equity and Inclusion update: Karen

- Goals getting focused — curricular connections, some spring event in place of the International Dinner
- Keeping things simple by supporting PEG programs, since they're working well
- Suggestion that E&I could use some of their budget to support tutoring/summer programs at Bayview
- We've never given more than \$2500 of their \$9000 budget, in the past. We've already granted them \$1000 this year, discussing the possibility of sending them more.
- E&I suggests using the rest of their \$1000 budget on this, including \$400 that had been budgeted for International Dinner, which might not happen
- Point raised that we should either keep closer to our grant process and deadlines or change them, but that fudging them is not ideal.
- Question from John about process for the schools to come to the PTO for monies outside the regular grant cycle, as things come up at odd times of the school year
- Megan mentions that there's a healthy amount of discretionary funds in the budget that can help with this

### • PEG Update: None

### ▼ Membership meetings for rest of the year:

- ▼ February meeting: Proposed topics include Bridges math curriculum: experiences with it, results and justifications
  - could also include demonstrations, number corner and other math activities to engage and show parents what their kids are doing
  - ?Vote?
- ▼ April topic: Zones of regulation? Equity & Inclusion? Second Step?
  - April will also have voting for board positions

### ▼ Principal updates:

- ▼ John: lots of equity work going on,
  - professional development has been really focused.
  - Working on building relationships with kids

- doing book share: Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain. Working specifically to work with "gap kids" to help bring them up.
- Story about UW Athletics offering Bucky, then Obie, then neither could come, lots of technical SNAFU, not enough handouts
- ▼ Sylla: Similar to Randall's efforts on inclusive teaching.
  - Green wall painted in maker space! Lego wall going up.
  - Establishing African-American PEG group, second meeting is tomorrow

## ▼ Parking Discussion

- Megan soliciting suggestions for ideas specific to parking fundraising dollars
- ▼ Lots of public info out there to add context:
  - F/R gets lowest \$/student allocation in MMSD
  - PTO \$ cannot go to staff directly, although it can go for substitute time
  - Some good portion of the parking money comes from parking on Randall property vs the city park
  - 72 schools in Madison — some with no PTO or very low budgets, but also some schools have roughly comparable budgets
- ▼ Question: how much is annual MMSD playground fund?
  - funds are allocated based on needs
- ▼ Question: Do we spend all of our PTO budget?
  - Last year, no. We had money left over last year
  - budget is designed to be neutral: we plan to spend every dollar we bring in.
- ▼ Feedback from email:
  - some saying "keep it, because our school is underfunded"
  - some saying "keep it and allocate to Bayview"
  - some saying "pass on to other schools"
  - suggestion to have a "sister school" to share not only \$\$ but resources
  - suggestion to invite other schools to use the space for their own fundraising efforts
  - suggestion to create shared PTO funding across schools
- Discussion is about how to address parking dollars \_next year\_ — this year's budget is fixed
- ▼ Suggestions:
  - Could give money to the Foundation as our own endowment
  - ways to give to the Foundation to benefit schools that otherwise wouldn't make their endowment level
- ▼ Beth O'Callahan from <https://fmmps.org/>
  - schools that are struggling tend to be middle schools
  - Hamilton or Wright would be natural places, since F/R students go there
  - personal college savings accounts for incoming kindergarteners
- Megan suggests that we allocate \$10K (about a third of our parking funds) to FMPS
- ▼ Question: Do F/R principals apply for grants from FMPS?
  - No, and that's been actively discouraged by principals, given the parking money.
- John: "It's a good thing when someone challenges me, because I either change my mind or stand more firmly where I was before."
- Meeting ran long; conversation will continue on in January's board meeting
- Vote will take place at a Membership meeting, so that the community can weigh in
- Adjourned 19:24