

October 29, 2015

QAE PTSA General Membership Meeting

QAE Cafeteria 6:30-8:30

Notice given via email, Rocket Reader, school calendar

Attendance: See sheet in Secretary's folder.

PTSA President Heath Dixon opened the meeting at 6:37 and welcomed all in attendance, said thanks for support of teachers and interim principal, and introduced 2015-2016 PTSA leaders.

Introductions of PTSA Officers – Heath, Ankur, Cari, Kari, Rick and treasurer-elect Rebecca. Directors-Karen, Jenny, Lauren, Rita, Ian, Susan, Meg, Nicole, Julie. Heath informed of the need for technology co-director with Julie. Coordinators-Lindsey, Gillian, Vasantha, Melanthia. Open positions-Garden, Membership, Volunteer, and Community Activities.

Meg motioned to accept the June minutes into the record. Mikael seconded. All in favor. No opposition. Motion passed.

Heath motioned to approve Rebecca H as co-treasurer. Motion was seconded. All in favor. No opposition. Motion passed.

Principal's Report: Amy McCue Jessee

Interim Principal Amy McCue Jessee introduced herself and fielded a number of questions during the first half of the meeting. She was thankful for the warm welcome and support received.

- Building improvement projects update
- Great experiences within the classroom thus far with students, teachers, and staff
- Reading Horizons program implementation has begun for this school year
- Music Teacher update-the position is unfilled at this time, being covered by Kristin Teske as extra PE for the students. Discussed options for a temporary solution this year (polling teachers and working through BLT for recommendation) with a goal of filling the (.5) position for next school year
- Teachers and staff are doing well amidst the changes and challenges

Supplementary Budget Proposal: Heath

Currently, excess funds from last year need to be reallocated to serve this year's needs.

Supplementary budget proposal outlined projects in facilities, Reading Horizons curriculum, SEL & FOC, and math curriculum tools. Heath explained how the budget is approved, how past surveys of parents to determine needs were done, and how the PTSA has a surplus from last school year (facilities projects that weren't completed and better than expected fundraising).

Further discussion followed regarding current math tool (ST Math), how parents could help streamline its use, and parent learning opportunities in regard to the common core.

Meg motioned to approve these supplementary budget requests all together. Motion seconded. No discussion. None opposed. All in favor. Motion passed.

Fundraising Update

Jog-a-thon did well. Fall Fund Drive begins Nov. 30. Auction is March 11.

Legislative Update

Elections are November 3 (Tuesday) –PTSA bylaws prohibit endorsing specific candidates.

Bell Times Update November 4 vote will occur. Fall 2016 = QAE will be 8 am start. Ian described the surveying & research done to make these decisions. Transportation also cited. Parent inquired on bussing for the years at QAE different site. Principal Jessee will research.

PTSA model Joe stated that Coe has a “friends of Coe” group that isn’t bound by PTSA by-laws. Heath described how we’ve decided to keep QAE under the PTSA model for now.

Principal Transition

- Heath communicated that community support for Principal Jessee has been wonderful during this time of transition.
- Sunday afternoon, Chief of Schools Mike Starosky reached out to PTSA to coordinate a meeting with Superintendent Nyland and staff. That opportunity couldn’t happen earlier due to administration schedules. Date forthcoming.
- Six PTSA officers met with Mike Starosky. Due to personnel laws, the information and discussion was limited. PTSA leaders expressed frustration with the poor communication and abrupt handling of the situation by SPS.

Questions:

- Does the PTSA have a formal position on reinstatement of David Elliott as principal?
A: No formal position but all agree the resignation/transition was handled poorly.
- Who was in leadership for Monday-Wednesday of last week?
A: There’s a chain of command, but the answer is unclear at this time.
- How was transition information communicated to the kids?
A: Differently based on age. Older students had more in depth questions.
- Would the PTSA be able to reallocate and/or raise more funds to hire an assistant principal?
A: PTSA can’t make a direct funding request, but changes could be proposed in the future.

Heath adjourned at 9:05.

Minutes submitted by Kari Edmondson, QAE PTSA Secretary