

Meeting Minutes Jefferson PTA Membership Meeting Notes, May 9th 2013

Attendees: Valerie Kratzer, Rick Kleine, Maggie Riddle, Beth Trevor, Kathleen Gragera, Shauna Rabinowitz, Tor Berg, Mara Mahmood, Chris Mahmood, Robert Gilligan, Stefan Lasiewski, Lori Hess, Andrea DeJarlais, Deb Graham, Rita Geary, Erin Branagan, Kitty Keenan, Eric Wells.

Eric Wells gave an introduction about the budget process.

Maggie gives information:

- Jefferson received grant money for garden and BUSD will be expending money on the garden programs.
- Jefferson expects to get the art anchor grant which will allow for more Art activities next year.
- The math program will be expanding next year as the district moves to the new “common core” curriculum.
- Maggie wants an ELD teacher at .7 FTE (Full Time Employee). Note that there is a state requirement that every English Language Learner has at least 3x per week 45 minutes. So if the school had an ELD specialist, then that time doesn't have to come from the classroom teachers as much. Note that the current Jefferson ELD teacher will be leaving. Getting this position approved now allows for the hiring process for next year to begin.

The PTA members ask budget questions:

- How sustainable is this ELD position? A: We'd probably only be able to do this for a couple years based on current PTA expenditures. Note that the school will be getting a slowly increasing funding from the district the number of students at Jefferson grows.
- What funds are being expended towards computers? A: The PTA voted to fund many new computers. These have already started being installed over the last 3 months. Probably about 50% more still coming. That PTA funding allowed the SGC to refocus some funds elsewhere. Note that as a consequence of moving to the Common Core curriculum the district will be required to buy additional computer supplies such as the ChromeBook labs.
- What funds are paying for the new speakers that the cafetorium needs? A: The PTA voted for the new PA system earlier in the year. Now additional money is needed to fix up the mobile speaker system. We are still waiting to hear how much that is going to cost.
- Can more money be spent on yard supervision? A: There are three ways to do get more yard supervision; parents and guardians do it, teachers do it, or get more staff. It is hard to find that kind of staff due to the short hours and low pay. What about expanding the JAZ instructors hours to cover yard supervision? A lot of the JAZ staff are in college during the regular school day, which is why we are able to get that quality for the afterschool program. Maggie will investigate further about how to possibly staff up the yard supervision, and the PTA and Maggie will reconsider that in Sept meeting.
- How is the Giving Campaign doing? A: Comparable to last year.

- Is Jefferson PTA expending funds in a comparable manner to the other schools in the district? A: According to PTA Council, yes.
- How much does the A's event and the Bookfair earn? A: A's event netted about \$600 this year. The Bookfair is designed to net about zero in fundraising but instead is used to acquire many books from the teachers' classroom request lists.
- A member requests that in the future there be some sort of bold font or call-out boxes that make it more clear what the main priorities are. Maggie says that in general teachers and staff tend to prioritize the additional staff positions the highest. They feel that the most important thing is to try to increase the adult-to-kid ratio on campus and scrape by on everything else if necessary.
- What is the plan for Camp Arroyo? A: The future of the 4th Grade field trip to Camp Arroyo is uncertain. In the original years that trip received substantial funding from a grant. That grant program no longer exists. That gap was barely filled with a combination of PTA funds and classroom-raised funds in 2012. It's actually quite an expensive trip and it took a lot of classroom effort for the fundraising, so the teachers are looking into alternatives for 2013.

The membership votes on the staff's request for additional staff.

Valerie moves to amend the PTA budget to now have a total of \$35,000 for the ELD position and a total of \$10,000 for the counselor position.

The motion passes.

The membership votes on the 2013-14 PTA Board.

Eric moves to approve the slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee. The slate is: Valerie Kratzer for PTA Co-President, Andrea DeJarlais for PTA Co-President, Deborah Spaulding for Treasurer, Kitty Keenan for 1st VP of Finance, Gavin Tachibana for Auditor, Robert Gilligan for Parliamentarian, Ahn Thu Bui and Lori Hess for Volunteer Coordinator, Jana Vourgourakis for Historian, Melissa Bottrell for Recording Secretary, Beth Trevor for Teacher Representative, and Maggie Riddle – Principal.

The motion passes.

Meeting adjourned.