Abernethy PTA Board meeting minutes, 9/27

Attending: Ericka Morgan, Daniela Krebs, Craig Stack, Cressa Schuster, Dawn McNeill, Carrie Richardson, Julia Silverman, Beth Barnes, Gretchen Kilby, Kirsten Isaacson, Terry Franks, Carolyn Duran, Stephanie Hart, Hanna Nesper-Newell, Joyce Chow

Carolyn Duran makes a MOTION to approve the minutes from the August 2018 board meeting, Dawn McNeill seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

- **Kirsten Isaacson:** We need to make sure we review our standing rules each year to make sure that they are up to date. Went through multiple revisions last year, would like to do it only once this year. A proposal is on the table to give the equity/advocacy committee a voting position. Looking for someone to lead an audit of our standing rules. Ericka Morgan volunteers.

- **Joyce Chow:** Review of requests for additional financial assistance from the new equity/inclusion committee. Happy to be making this a one-time ask for families, rather than having them constantly be returning to Jenny Morgan, school counselor, throughout the school year.
- School/district funds can cover school supplies, field trips. Private donors cover financial assistance for extended school breaks.
- PTA will cover small expenditures like carnival tickets, yearbook, scholastic/IRCO book fair and holiday shoppe.
- For school pictures, need to consider how much we can offer. One possibility: $20 toward the purchase of whatever package of school photos a family might like.
- Big question, and financial cost, is how much the PTA can help with after-school programming, like garden, spanish, basketball and enrichment programs. There is a wide range in the requests that families have made. Many of these activities are big social drivers, and being unable to afford to participate can have a big impact. At the same time, some are expensive enough that families who don't qualify for aid still can't afford them.
- One option is to cap assistance to families at $200 per student. If the families that have requested this assistance all fully use it, it will be a $1400 expense. There is $2000 already approved for the equity/inclusion committee's budget, but that wouldn't leave much room for further expenses and requests for aid down the road. We can afford this, but it might mean less money available in the spring to help pay for teachers and instructional support.
- Kirsten Isaacson makes a MOTION to increase the equity and inclusion committee's budget by $1400. Stephanie Hart seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

- **Julia Silverman:** Topics for upcoming meetings include a collaboration with Courageous Conversations about Race (for October), a discussion of splitting the PTA and foundation (November), a conversation about garden and its future at Abernethy (March), a discussion of Talented and Gifted education at Abernethy (April) and a discussion about the budget for 2019-2020 (May.)
- Gretchen Kilby: Heard a presentation from a mom who lost a child at Sandy Hook Elementary on school safety. Might be helpful to hear from staff about safety measures that are in place.

Carolyn Duran makes a motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Hanna Nesper Newell seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Dawn McNeill

PTA membership is currently at 156 members. I sent a reminder to PTA board via Slack to sign-up for a membership if you have not already done so. We are required to have all PTA leadership listed as paid members, other board members are strongly suggested to hold current membership. I expect to add a total of approximately 8-12 "free" memberships as part of our equity initiative. I am working with Jenny Morgan and Joyce Chow to get names/forms submitted anonymously for those folks. We are currently running behind our normal membership goal of approximately 240 individuals. We have sold 26 Chinook book/app combos, 16 apps and an additional 8 online app purchases. This is well below our normal sales level (76 print and 44 mobile total sold last year); we are required to wrap-up sales by Sept 30. I have made a final push in this week's Monday Mailer and we will be able to continue pushing sales of the app online and via social media past this deadline. People who have purchased Chinook books or apps are strongly encouraged to pick up at this week's Community Meeting; otherwise, they will be distributed to their oldest child's classroom in mid-October. Pick-up is encouraged to cut down on burdening the teachers with distributing them in class.

New Family Connections: Cressa Schuster

Added 4th kindergarten teacher and supported families as able through the transition. No further updates.

Auction: Terry Franks

We will be having an introductory meeting October 10th, 7pm at the Duran-Franks house. Interested volunteers (from the volunteer survey) have been contacted and/or will be contacted early this week, along with a general announcement to the FB Homeroom Page and the Yahoo

board. The meeting will outline volunteer opportunities, a schematic timeline and introduce the auction theme. Plans for the big wheel have been drafted and materials have been ordered.

Garden Afterschool Program: Jay Austin

The GAP program is underway and currently full, with a short-to-medium waitlist for all days. We were able to accommodate two scholarship students, referred by the school, for one day per week. With flexibility from our teachers and timely volunteer help by the PTA Board, we successfully moved the Garden classroom, and are now operating from Room 11 at the south end of the building. I am in the process of lining up contracts with 2-3 substitute teachers who can fill in on an hourly basis as needed. And Jessica and Melissa have scheduled a Harvest Potluck for GAP families and supporters on Friday, October 5th, at 6:00 in the gazebo.

Volunteer Coordinators: Sara Albert

Volunteer coordinator team:
--all Room Parents have been welcomed and identified to the teacher and other Room Parents in their class (except kinder pending the new class assignments)
--some volunteer lists have been distributed to program and event chairs, including TDL, Basketball, and a few others
--we have decided against holding a Room Parent orientation meeting but provided an expanded welcome letter that covers more information
--Picture Day went well and we'll have retake day in October
--Stephanie is working on the Google Form for the school-wide directory and is consulting with John Grant to make it a password-protected file on supportabernethy.org
--Stephanie is recruiting for the PTA Clothes Closet shift on 9/24
@Stephanie Hart

Finance Committee: Craig Stack

Financial statements posted in Dropbox.

We had higher spending than planned on garden set up at the beginning of the year. We paid about $2k additional in labor for preparation of the school garden, classroom and cleanup relating to the new shed. Would like to increase garden budget by that amount. To pay for this, we received our refund check from yearbook. That money was not allocated this fiscal year. Will ask for a quick board vote on that topic.

We are receiving ~$20,300 for mural work. This will be a pass thru payment to Nina's restoration company. Check are being written after we receive the money. We are a fiscal agent to help with the mural work.

Taxes are in final signature stage. Due date is Nov 15th.

Communications: Gretchen Kilby

I will be putting a blurb in the MM and yahoo group to seek an additional communications person. The hope is to have someone to know the ropes for MM, etc. for an easy transition into next year. Also, there was some confusion on the assignment sheet that lists who is responsible for the MM lead article each week. Kirsten let me know she's working on getting it sorted out and then I'll be sure to post on Slack so everyone knows when they have a slot(s). And of course I'll still pester you, too

Afterschool Programs: Julia Silverman

We are getting a great response from parents about the new after-school directory. Unfortunately, our partnership with St. Philip Neri Catholic Church did not work out because of their insurance requirements. But we were able to find last minute spaces for the programs that were supposed to be at the church so it all worked out. For next term, we are considering adding an herbology and potions class, and working with Saturday Academy to see if they can bring some of their TAG math/science programming to Abernethy. Northwest Children's Theater has also expressed interest in starting a class at Abernethy, but their audience may be limited because of Portland Drama Club. It's a fine line between offering some cool classes and not over-programming, which results in under-enrollment. Also, space is always a concern. Please let me know if you have specific feedback about an after-school program your child is in!