

PA MEETING (9-19-23)

Agenda

Welcoming Remarks by Presidents

- One of our primary goals for this year is to boost involvement.
 - One way to encourage involvement is to make PA meetings more accessible, which involves providing childcare.
- Each PA meeting will have a theme.
- The PA will aim to give lots of advanced notice as to when meetings will be held in order to encourage attendance.

Principal's Report

- Project-based learning
 - *Exercise for the group*
 - Question: What skills do you want your child to have when they grow up?
 - Answers: Parents named various skills that they use in their jobs or elsewhere in their adult lives.
 - Takeaway: Parents want their children to be taught real life skills.
 - *Overview of Project-Based Learning*
 - Main course (gold-standard project-based learning) not dessert (projects), which focus on teaching real life skills.
 - In the project-based learning model, the unit project is based on “student voice and choice.”
 - Project-based learning is a standards-based teaching of key knowledge and content (a/k/a a pedagogical approach)
 - The impact of gold-standard project-based learning on student achievement is that students are better prepared for college and develop better career readiness.
 - Project-based learning incorporates multiple subject areas.
 - *What does a real project look like in a real third grade classroom?*
 - Tiny House Project: a gold-standard project-based learning experience where students learned the material over the course of the unit and by completing the project.
 - Driving question for the Tiny House Project: How can the class, as a design team, build a tiny house, taking into consideration budget, location & personal preferences?
 - In Practice: Students designed tiny houses using Mind Craft.
- *Project-Based Learning at PS39*:
 - PBL is happening across DOE but is specifically a District 15 initiative.
 - Each grade level will engage in two projects over the course of the year — one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester.
 - Assessment will be built into the project unit in the same way they would evaluate any unit: teachers develop a rubric to measure whether students are meeting standards.

- Teachers are being supported through PBL Works and a PBL Coach on PS39's staff, funded by the PA, who is onsite.
 - Both are working with the teachers on a weekly basis.
- Update on scheduling of enrichments
 - K-2: Chess.
 - K-1: Music & Movement.
 - K-2: Swim
 - K 3-5: Media Literacy
 - K-5: "The Talk"

Treasurers' Report

- Budget Update:
 - Revenue Generators:*
 - Mighty Fine Drive
 - Auction
 - School Supply Program
 - Gear
 - Read-a-thon
 - Spooktacular & Spring Carnival
 - Other sources (donations that PS39 receives throughout the year)
 - Interest
 - Total: \$153,000*
 - Expenditures*
 - Enrichment programs (Part-Time Music Teacher, Rachel Lotus, Swim, Chess, Take 2, BAX, Author Visits, New Victory)
 - 16 classrooms
 - 5 clusters
 - Service providers
 - Project-based learning
 - PBL teacher online consultancy
 - PBL School Leadership Network
 - Reimagined
 - PBL 1-day "project slice"
 - Miscellaneous professional development expenditures
- Vote on Budget Amendment: Vote was taken as to whether to swap the funding of the part-time music teacher and PBL professional development. All were in favor of the budget amendment, which will free up \$12k in the budget.

New Business

- Results of PA survey
 - Music, swim, theater and chess are most popular current enrichment offerings.
 - Parents want to see us expand our enrichment commitments in the following areas: music, science, reading & writing, visual arts, chess, math, service to community, and kindness

- Parents suggested the following new enrichment ideas: dance & movement; languages; expanding music to include instrument training; more chess; coding or robotics; nature-based science; more theater; yoga & meditation; teaching how to stay safe online; and swimming for all grades.
- Carnival and Spooktacular were the two most popular PA events.
- Parents offered the following ideas about new ways to come together: volunteering to do community service together, movie night, general socializing, field trips, diversity & DEI events, and many more.
- Upcoming Community Events
 - *Spooktacular October 28*
 - We have 22 volunteers and more people offering to coordinate.
 - *Fall class/grade get-togethers*
 - We are looking to promote more get-togethers.
 - Parents are encouraged to reach out to the PA for help coordinating.
 - *Parents of Gender Expansive Kids (Justin)*
 - Parents of Gender Expansive Kids hosts a coffee meet-up once/month on the first Wednesday of every month.
 - Generally, the group meets at Principal Coffee but the newsletter will provide the exact location each month.

Other Committee Updates

- Gear
 - More gear will be coming out soon.
 - Gear sales are doing well.
- Class Parent Liaison
 - Class parents are assigned for every class except for 423.
- Gardening
 - Gardening committee meets once/week and learns how to grow and harvest our own food.
 - The committee has a goal of being able to donate its harvest to Camp Friendship in an amount that is meaningful.
 - *Funding:*
 - There is currently a grant out for more planters.
 - The committee has found a vendor that will donate soil.