

PTG Meeting

November 17, 2010

Thoreau School Cafeteria

9:30am

Attendees: Karen Brown, Melanie Bettencourt, Jen Jiganti, Meg Wright, Trish Siefer, Bridget Walker, Maria Scichilone, Najah Alford, Rebecca Tubbs, Pam Gannon, Amy Hoey, Shelagh Moskow, Erin Duggan, Margaret Cho McMorrow, Nancy Zuffante, Catherine Holden

Welcome- Karen Brown & Melanie Bettencourt

Principal's Report- Kelly Clough

Principal's survey ended in October, will share feedback soon.

MCAS Results

-Don't want to teach to MCAS but our instruction will help prepare students to test well.

-Grade 3 first year they take MCAS. Did well within district. Outranked the state.

-Grade 4 above district and state.

-Grade 5 ELA(English Language Arts) very well. First year they have science.

-Growth Model- Individual Student Growth percentile-expect your child to have 10 month's growth every year

<<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/growth/tutorial2.html>>
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No Trespassing/Dog Walking Signs- new signs will be revised.

Evacuation & Lockdown Drills- drill went really well; kids stayed calm, orderly, quiet, respectful; Officer Scott saw vast improvement from previous drills.

School Advisory Committee- made up of 4 parents, 3 staff members and Principal. Parent Abby White continues her term, but 3 parent spots are open. Staff members continuing terms are Maureen Silven and Brad Bennett.

Recess/cafeteria rules-how kids need to act appropriately during these times.

Parking issues- need to be careful when dropping kids off at school.

Planning more school assemblies.

Hiring METCO tutor and bus monitor. Parents of METCO asked to be introduced with a meet & greet for new METCO tutor.

Concord Public Schools FY2012 Budget- Pam Gannon, School Committee Member

Budget is for Concord Public Schools up to grade 8 and includes integrated pre-school.

Enrollment number is very critical to plan budget for subsequent year. This is the main reason for the budget increase.

Enrollment at Concord schools is dramatically increasing, especially Willard- new school, older people selling homes, income tax credit for first time buyers. 5 kindergarten classes at Willard this year.

Budget issues when there is this kind of growth. Finance Committee 3 entities- Concord Public Schools, CCHS, and Town. Committee need to disperse the money between these three. School gets most of the funding.

Taxes have not been increased. Every entity has tried to be very frugal. Schools have only 'asked for what they need'.

Special Ed teacher added to the middle school.

Integrated pre-school opened up another classroom. Increase in special needs children entering schools.

Increased technology in schools means need more bandwidth. Provide and maintain the servers.

Asking for a 3% increase in budget. Total requested budget 2012 over \$28 million. School committee has not officially voted on the budget, won't be voted until December. Meeting for the final recommendation with the Finance

Committee Thursday, November 18th.

Finance Committee has two parents, both from the high school. Looking for people to volunteer on the Town's Finance Committee. Missing young parent demographic. Important to have these parents on the committee.

CCHS Building Project Update-Maureen Spada, School Committee Member

Need volunteers/help- passed around a visual of plans and volunteer sign-up.

Master Plan Committee- agreed high school should be where school is presently located.

Meeting coming up- February 3, 2011. Get a tour of the high school, talk about project, timeline, money

High School does not meet 21st century needs of education, over used, out of date, electrical system is not meeting capacity of school, safety issues, antiquated safety systems.

Town meeting approved \$1.3 million for feasibility study.

MSBA came for a tour over the summer. Unanimously approved from repair category to renovation. Total project \$80 million. 30-35% potential reimbursement from state.

Project will be phased over 4 years.

Please get involved and volunteer in some way. Come to Town meetings and vote.

Capital Committee's Fall Funding Recommendations- Karen & Melanie

Voting today.

Fine Motor Kits for Kindergarten & 1st grade- (see handout)- approved, unanimous

Digital Cameras- 12 traveling cameras for students' use in class- (see handout)- approved, unanimous

Ipod Touch for PE Classes- funding for Ipod or Ipad. Enhance instruction. Use it with projector, voted and agreed Ipod will be sufficient- approved, unanimous

Fundraising Report: Natalie Gekle & Maria Scichilone

Book Fair - used sales down, new books up. At the time of the meeting, the exact numbers weren't in.

Original Art Project - made only about 1/2 of projected revenue.

Annual Appeal - electronic this year. People (at the time of the meeting) had already begun donating, running a raffle for "Thoreau" vests, If you don't want a thank you gift, send an e-mail to Natalie and Maria

Next Fundraising Event - Auction

Vice-President's Report- Jen Jiganti

Heads up to board members and committee chairs, we are working to update the volunteer booklet

- Please review your description and send any edits to Jen Jiganti

- People who hold new positions will need to draft a job description

- Jen will send an e-mail out directly to committee chairs

Turkey Trot Update-Trish Siefer

Parent volunteers meet 10:45 - 11:15 in the caf

Rally at 11:20

Children should bring a water bottle

40 students without permission slips, Leanne and Trish in the process of contacting families without permission slips

Want to recognize Mr. Hourihan and Ms. Keefe for 25 years of leading the Turkey Trot. It was 25 years last year.

Co-President's Report-Karen & Melanie

New Process for Requesting Use of School Facilities

-People are having trouble accessing "School Dude".

-The system will hold you up at a point in the sign-up process and then never allows the process to move forward.

-Some folks have been contacting Donna Macone in the office. Melanie Bettencourt urged people to use the contact methods/links available on the School Dude website. She was able to get help setting up.

-Also, the district needs to be aware of difficulties. If Donna schedules all of the rooms for the PTG, the district won't be aware that there is a problem.

New Thoreau Principal's Coffees on 12/1, 2/16 & 5/4

- These occur on months when there isn't a PTG general meeting.

- Times and locations for future events will be in the Thoreau

Announcements

Open Table Food Drive - ongoing until 11/24

Open PTG Positions - School Directory, Thoreauly Green, Math Club

-There weren't any volunteers at the meeting, though we encouraged people to talk about these positions with their friends and contact Karen and Melanie if anyone was interested.

Superintendent's Tea in Thoreau Library on 12/3 from 3:30 - 5pm. Children welcome to attend w/ parents, All are welcome.

Other Business

None at this time.

Meeting adjourned.

No PTG Meeting in December.

This message was sent to the Thoreau mailing list.