

Isaac Dickson PTO Meeting

13 June 2017

Attendees:

Matt Menne
Jessica Danielian
Ruafika Cobb
Brad Johnson
Rhonda Sizemore
Jessica Blunden
Pepi Acebo
Ashley Smith
Libby Kyles
Deanna Border

Introductions given around the table for new members.

Agenda (see accompanying ppt slides)

PTO Meeting Structure and Planning Ahead:

- All meetings [PTO and Leadership Council (LC)] will be held at 5:30PM, PTO on 3rd Mondays unless otherwise noted and LC on first Tuesdays unless otherwise noted. Pepe noted January and February 3rd Mondays are teacher workdays, so meetings will be moved to 4th Mondays.
- Matt suggested that each full PTO meeting highlight activities of a specific grade. (First meeting will not have this since the school year is so new and it's a good opportunity to meet parents - see below. Will skip for December as well since that is a very busy month.) Rhonda suggested beginning with the rising 4th graders who just raised \$900 (in 3rd grade), highlighting this activity.
- Invite new superintendent to first meeting (members decided on Monday September 11)
- First Leadership Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 5.
- **Matt suggested a small group converge in June to finalize initial budget details. Jessica D. and Pepi volunteered to assist.**
- Matt also suggested to meet once again in August
- Invite Melissa Hedd (ACS Executive Director of Teaching & Learning) to PTO meeting (October?) to introduce the concept of and explain the rationale behind the new Integrated Comprehensive Systems (ICF) that is going to be introduced in 2017/18 school year (intro to this for teachers in year 1). ACS has made a 4-year commitment to this program. **Brad will email Ms Hedd to invite her to attend.** That might be a good time for the new superintendent to attend.
- Ruafika suggested an ice cream social for all parents. Everyone agreed that the 1st PTO meeting would be a great time to do this. **Pepi offered to get this on The Hop's schedule.** Tentative schedule:
 - 5-6 PM ice cream social

- 6-7 PM meeting business
- **Jessica D., Pepe, and Matt** will get a PTO packet together to send to Kindergarten parents.

There was an aside discussion on the IDES Open House on September 28 (5:30-7:00 PM) and whether this would also be an ice cream social or maybe a potluck. Matt suggested to park this topic for now and revisit at a later date.

Budget Priorities (see ppt for specific \$ details):

- Matt received feedback from teachers
 - Stipends are most popular
 - Followed by field trip support
- Matt also asked "What wasn't funded that you wish would come back?"
 - Artist in Residence!
 - Artwork for Halls
 - Equity work (e.g., training similar to what Claxton did - Matt participated in this and can more details)
 - Permanent shade structure
- Libby wondered if the PTO may be able to find/designate someone who can dedicate time to search out grant funding? E.g., she noted that Carolina Panthers give out a lot of grants for things like playgrounds etc.
- Discussion about bringing back the (outdoor) cob oven. Kate Fisher and Patti Evans on board to help with this. Cost might be ~\$2000, currently have ~\$900 on hand.
- Matt is hoping that Yumiko Virant will take on role of co-treasurer. (She was not able to attend this meeting, so unsure for now.)

Breakfast of Hope:

- Held off on discussion as Steve Agan was unable to attend to discuss.
- Deanna wanted to make sure that the group is moving forward on this and getting table captains in order. **PTO: does anything need to be done here before next meeting?**

Garden:

- Issues at the end of the year and Garden Committee disbanded.
- Joan is paid \$300/week for 50 weeks from PTO (not dependent on hours worked, just flat pay). Question of whether to pay same amount over the summer to maintain plants and garden. This was the consensus of the folks at the last garden meeting (???)
- Pepe suggested continuing to pay the \$300/wk until the new budget is finalized (at the September meeting if possible)
- Matt has concerns that Joan is essentially an independent contractor and there is no clear structure in place to oversee and prioritize the work. PTO paid \$6000, the rest was paid through a grant. There is some confusion about whether the foundation currently funding Joan's stipend will allow potential future grants to be spent on stipends. This needs to be clarified.

- Deanna asked Ruafika and Brad what their thoughts were on the garden:
 - They talked to Joan, she is planning to look for her own grants.
 - They both think gardens are a crucial part of the school. Brad noted that the garden kitchen will be converted into a classroom. (some classes may have built out their own small kitchens)
 - It is an issue if garden is not part of curriculum. Garden program should be led by the teachers. Deanna suggested (re)evaluating once a quarter or so to make sure we are funding what teachers need/want.
 - Libby said last year, with the building and busyness, it was not feasible for the teachers to meet with Joan about their needs - not at top of priority list.
 - Libby said there more structure is needed. Brad said vision is needed.

New Out of (ACS) District Policies:

Brad made the following notes:

- ACS is closing to out of district families. This includes siblings (i.e., no grandfathering in for families with current students).
- A student with more than 18 absences and/or tardies will be sent back to home district (*immediately or next school year?*)
- 1st in or out of school suspension is a warning, next time back to home district (not really an issue here for IDES).

End of meeting

Minutes submitted by Jessica Blunden
June 14, 2017

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2017