



## Garrett Park Elementary School PTA, Inc.

### PTA General Meeting

June 6, 2017

Room B-143

### Minutes

CALL TO ORDER. Marc Silverman called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Minutes for the general meeting on May 2 were approved.

Marc noted that the GPES PTA received two awards from the MCCPTA for growing membership this year.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE. Dan Tucci listed upcoming special events at the school. He also named ten staff members who will be leaving the school at the end of the school year. Two will be retiring: Reading Initiative teacher Ms. Digioia and Assistant Principal Mrs. Higgins.

Mrs. Higgins attended the meeting and expressed her appreciation for the kids, staff and parents she had worked with in her 25 years in MCPS and 5 years at GPES. Mr. Tucci expressed gratitude for her help over the last year.

Mr. Tucci said he will announce any additional staffing changes to parents.

TREASURER'S UPDATE. Diane Cassidy summarized PTA spending since the previous meeting and distributed an updated budget.

A financial review of the 2015-16 year had been completed.

BUDGET FOR 2017-18. Diane and Erin Rehman, next year's Exec VP and President respectively, presented the proposed budget for the next school year.

The proposed budget cut the following events:

- Read Aloud Night in October
- Earth Day in April

The budget adds support for new events:

- STEM nights, with organization led by Amber Coleman-Mortley
- ALLIES programs led by Sherri Stevens, including diversity-themed playdates, a dance in May, and another event to be planned

Several people present objected to cutting Read Aloud Night. Heather Bruskin noted that it drives traffic to the Book Fair; she suggested the GPESEF could help offset the cost of the event.

Heather Down said she'd hate to see the event go and suggested cutting costs and the logistical difficulties by condensing the event into fewer rooms. She offered to help design an evening that's more limited, with fewer rooms used and more teachers per room.

Christina Bradley suggested adding back \$500 to the budget for Read Aloud Night (\$700 allocated last year).

The proposed budget eliminated a line for supporting cultural art assemblies, but the PTA leadership plans to talk with staff about what events might be of interest and could use the midyear support line for assemblies.

The budget also:

- adjusts how classroom support is distributed so that specialists also receive support
- cuts support for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion
- increases support for the PTA web site
- predicts income will be equal to last year

There was discussion about cutting the budget for the ice cream social; the plan is to distribute water and popsicles. Kate Fritz suggested having an ice cream social fundraiser another time.

Christina noted that there is no volunteer to run the silent auction next year. If there is no volunteer by October, the PTA budget will have to be cut drastically, she said, unless the Rocky Fund brings in considerably more money than last year. Heather Down suggested having a committee to run the silent auction rather than a single volunteer.

A motion was approved by voice vote:

- The proposed budget will be amended to decrease the ice cream social budget by \$500 and allocate \$500 to Read Aloud Night.

**PTA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.** For the 2017-18 year, volunteers are needed to be Fundraising VP and Membership VP. Committee Chairs are needed to run each event, including one for International Night (one of two people involved in that is stepping down).

**OPEN FORUM.** Heather Down offered to forward requests from the PTA, such as volunteer openings, through her weekly classroom newsletter and suggested other teachers may be happy to do so as well.

Heather also said changes made this year much improved the logistics for International Night.

**ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. A head count noted 22 people present.

Respectfully submitted, Karine Jegalian, Recording Secretary