

PTA Meeting Minutes

Thoreau Middle School

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Held at the Navy Federal Credit Union offices

In Attendance: Principal Hood, Miriam Ghassey, Beth Eachus, Monica Cramer, Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn, Stephanie Bellini and Corinne Bowen

Just prior to the meeting, Karen Snee, a longtime employee with Navy Federal gave a nice donation to the school, expressing her gratitude for the relationship that Thoreau and Navy Federal have that has provided her opportunities to serve.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

President's Report – Jane Miscavage

Thanks to the efforts of Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn, the entire staff (teachers, custodians, bus drivers, etc.) were given \$ 50 gift cards as part of **Teacher Appreciation Week**. The staff was overwhelmed by the generosity. Non-teaching staff in particular say that their contemporaries at other schools are not treated this well and that they consider themselves very fortunate to be able to work at Thoreau.

By the time school is out, the **Campus Campaign** will have raised \$ 50,000. A few items need to be settled with the Auction, but it appears that it will have made \$ 22,000. We are hoping to find more \$ 5,000 sponsorships and to solicit more direct donations.

The **Dining Out Nights** have not been as successful as we had hoped. We tend to do better with the restaurants that don't require flyers or receipts to be handed in. The **Brick Fundraiser** has begun. The cost is \$ 50.00 for an engraved brick, with each brick costing us \$ 17.00. There should be at least 2,000 bricks available to sell.

Principal's Report – Principal Hood (Who recently added the title *President of the Middle School Principal's Association* to his name.)

With all of the discussion between the county and the board of supervisors about funding and the lack of money, **Thoreau has become a model** for how a community can rally around a school to make things happen. Other schools are taking notice. There has been a 95 % positive response to the new furniture and doing tours during the auction was great for those in attendance since no one has been allowed in again, even when they've asked Mr. Hood nicely.

The kitchen will be closed the last couple of weeks of school, so only **bag lunches** will be served. During the summer, the front of the building will be a mess and the parking lot will be torn up, so getting into the school will be by appointment only.

There are different levels at which a school can pass **SOL standards**. Thoreau now has to test all ESOL students, since opt-out policies are no longer an option. We have new non-english

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speakers arriving all of the time, so we can expect Thoreau's overall pass average to be less than it has been in previous years.

Thoreau's ESOL teachers have been making home visits and thinking of other ways to bring the community together. **International Night** (with donated food, ethnic potluck dishes and demonstrations by students) is another attempt to help in doing that. We are also looking at creating a Thoreau Care Committee to reach out to fill temporal needs as well as finding a Spanish speaking parent PTA liaison to assist.

Committee Reports

The **8th Grade Dance** is coming up on June 5th, being planned by a good group of volunteers. The dance will run from 7 – 9 pm, and since the food and prizes were donated there will be no cost to attend. The students voted for the theme by scanning a QR code on their phones in the cafeteria.

A committee was formed to **audit** the PTA books in the summer.

Old Business

Monica Cramer made a motion to pass the April **minutes**. Stephanie Bellini seconded the motion and the minutes were passed as written.

The old PTA Board is hoping to transition as much as they can by June 19th to the new board. A big thank you was given to Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn for her huge efforts in fundraising for the teachers and in helping put together the auction.

New Business

For next year we need **people to chair** the following PTA committees: School Directory, diversity Liaison, Volunteer Coordinator, Thoreau Cares, Fundraising/Auction, Special Education Liaison, Rebate Programs, Reflections, Science Olympiad and Landscaping Committees.

The next steps in the **Campus Campaign** are to find an additional \$ 50,000.00. Major donation requests will be made, with the incentive of their name appearing on a thank you banner at Back-to-School Night and a potential banner with the Town of Vienna if we win the lottery to display one. We need to find people who know who to ask as this would provide local businesses with access to their key markets.

We are planning to do another **auction** next school year, but in February or some time late winter when there won't be as many scheduling conflicts for people to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.