

## **PTA Meeting Minutes**

Thoreau Middle School

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Attendees: Principal Azimi, Rebecca Aguilar, Beth Eachus, Sarah Helmicki, Laura Schmorow, Stacey Leimbach, Sonya Marsden, Samantha Rayburn, Michelle Alonso, Virginia Wright, Emily Korff, Debbie Gardner, Courtney Chadwick.

Beth called the meeting to order at 9:49am. She thanked all the volunteers for a successful year and for all the hard work at Thoreau.

### **Principal's Report**

Mr. Azimi welcomed everyone to the meeting and also thanked the attendees at the meeting and all the volunteers for their commitment and active volunteerism at TMS. He feels that there is a genuine partnership between parents, teachers and administration at TMS. To that end, he uses this "partnership" as a sales tool in recruiting new teachers since they prefer high parent involvement.

Mr. Azimi noted that he must fill 24 vacancies for the 2018-2019 school year due to the growth in the school. As of the meeting, he has already hired 14 new staff. He noted that there were 17 new staff in the 2017-2018 school year. He believes that parent involvement contributes to TMS' ability to attract and retain teachers, defying national trends, which continue to indicate teacher shortages.

### **Student Services Report**

Ms. Aguilar echoed the thank you to PTA volunteers. Ms. Aguilar reported that the SOL testing was underway. She noted that kids can become stressed during these testing periods. Some testing takes place in large testing rooms, so to reduce any additional stress caused by that situation, many teachers are constantly monitoring testing rooms to check on the kids and be sure they are ok.

Ms. Aguilar mentioned a new program at Thoreau, the Thoreau Pantry, which is a program to ensure food security over the weekend for students in need. This program is also in place at James Madison HS and other elementary schools, but has just recently become formalized at TMS. TMS was in need of a volunteer who could commit a great deal of time to support the program. Gail Hibler, a former staff member at JMHS has taken on this role. She will organize food collection, organization and distribution to students. The program is starting small, but is expected to grow once logistics become more solid. Marshall HS also plans to institute a similar program in the 2018-2019 school year.

### **President's Report**

Beth also discussed the Thoreau Pantry project at TMS. She noted that a message would go out requesting food donations for the end of the school year. She noted that she was excited that TMS would be formally participating in a program that is similar to other pyramid schools to expand the continuum of food security for students.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was provided by Laura Schmorow. She noted that the PTA did a great job on fundraising this year with contributions from the school store and Crosstown Hoops.

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She suggested that the PTA consider adding a line item to the 2018-2019 budget for teacher grants. These might be used, for example, to purchase easels that could be used during the Navy Federal Art Show by TMS students.

### **Committee Reports**

**Hospitality:** The Hospitality committee reported that Teacher Appreciation Week was successful. The schedule was as follows

- Monday – coffee for teachers (Caffe Amouri)
- Tuesday – salad to go with pizza provided by TMS
- Wednesday – fruit market with donated fruit by parents and bags provided by Whole Foods
- Thursday – lunch provided by Navy Federal Credit Union
- Friday – gifts of over 130 gift cards; All teachers and staff received at least \$20-\$40 in gift cards.

The committee also reported that they had received many thank you notes from the teachers.

**Courtyard:** A plan for a Thoreau eagle is in place for the new courtyard. Beth met with a Fairfax County Civil Engineer to finalize the design. The Engineer has a contractor to install the mosaic. The walkways in the courtyard will be lined with purchased bricks. After the design is complete, picnic tables may be added as well.

**Auction:** 20+ items were donated for the online auction. Any funds received from the auction bids will be contributed to TMS to purchase new furniture for the school to help accommodate the increase in the number of students attending TMS.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade party is planned for 6/1 from 6-8pm. Diana Nash and Paris Jacobs are the organizers for the event. They have planned a sports theme along with their committee. The sign-up genius is mostly full for the event. The party is free for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend.

**Field Day:** This event is planned for 6/14 and is run by the SCA. It will be carnival style with 3 food trucks (crepes, Kona Ice, and ice cream). Any funds made will be used to pay for the 2018-2019 Field Day.

**Dine Out:** The last Dine Out is planned for 5/23. Social Burger will contribute 20% of all sales from 4-9pm to TMS.

### **New Business**

Beth presented the 2018-2019 TMS PTA officer slate:

- President – Emily Korff
- Vice President – Stacey Leimbach
- Secretary – Debbie Gardner
- Treasurer – Amanda Dixon

Courtney Chadwick made a motion to approve the slate. Sonya Marsden seconded. The motion passed.

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Some additional PTA committee members mentioned at the meeting include:

- Membership – Stephanie Bollini
- Dining for Dollars – Missy Dixon
- Directory – Michael Paruti

Debbie Gardner made a motion to provide funds to seed the Thoreau Pantry with \$500. Stacey Leimbach seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Thoreau PTA did not need to purchase Car Magnets this year, so we voted and approved to move the \$1800 budgeted for magnets to the Staff Training, Development, and Support line. In addition, the Board voted and approved to add \$200 to the \$1800 making it an even \$2000.

The Staff Training, Development, and Support line currently has \$3000 budgeted for staff needs. With the additional \$2000 as described above, the new total for that budget line is \$5000. This funding can be used for anything that supports the Staff, to include technology and/or items required for classrooms.

Finally, we have budgeted in our fundraising line \$4500 coming from the online auction. The goal for the auction was to support technology and furniture needs for the classrooms necessary for next year's growth.

That said, with the \$5000 in Staff Support line, and \$4500 in the auction line, you have \$9500 budgeted/approved for expenditure to support staff needs this PTA fiscal year.

Beth ended the meeting at 10:38am.