

Lowrie Primary PTA General Meeting
Minutes
4.30.14

Chelsea Martin, Josh Dalglish, Carrie Keith, Kishore Kollu, Andrea Smith, Travis Tadema, Kimberly Nelson, Patrick Meigs, Gail Anderson, Sylvia ?, Jim Fitch

1. Call to order 6:35.

2. Motion to approve minutes. All in favor.

3. Principal's report (Patrick Meigs):

- Superintendent Rhodes has put together a budget and a presentation to use with teachers, parents, and others re: budget message.
- 2 parts: high-level thinking about strategic investments, and how did the budget come to be and what factors play into school district budget
 - over the past few years, message has been a "cutting" budget
 - this year, district is adding staff! Yay!
 - In addition to the 24 positions added last year, there is the potential to add 14 more this year
- How do we have a "growth" mindset re: a budget?
- Motion leadership: ready, fire, aim
 - There are unknowns. Lots of variables.
- Board sets goals each year
- Where does the money come from and what's affecting the budget?
 - Districts get 92% of its money from state.
 - 4.5% from local option
 - .2% from foundation (about 2 FTE)
 - 3.6% from capital levy (facilities bonds = buildings, etc.)
- for the last 4 biennium (2-year periods of time), schools' percentage has decreased; this biennium, it is going up!
- Budget is largely people – 83% in salary and benefits
- Student enrollment has been climbing steadily since 1999-2000 school year.
- In 2008, the amount of money from the local option started to decline due to economy. We are starting to climb out of it, though!
- Summary:
 - Current budget is on target to meet goals
 - Local option moving up
 - Enrollment is increasing

- Bond and local option are coming to an end; what next?
- Roll-up costs for salaries/staff
- Strategic implications
 - Stability and sustainability
 - Strategic professional development
 - Full school year and full academic schedules (NO furlough days, high school students fill schedules with classes, not early release/studyhalls)
 - Potential strategic addition of staff
 - Keep modest reserve

4. Budget (Josh Dalglish):

- Preliminary budget is on website: Josh went over it
- Budget committee has been meeting to discuss “special” projects from PTA members, teachers, and others
 - Total funding proposals = \$22,800 (many proposals are an “up to” amount)
 - Proposals have been prioritized into 3 tiers based off PTA mission.
 - Summary: leveled literacy books, iPads, computer and tech resident (person), math Olympiads, artist in residence, battle of the books, title I books, zoo school, chess program, children’s day celebration
- Thanks to budget committee for their work on this process.

5. “Changing the Face of the PTA” talk: Tues., May 6 @ 6:45 at Jefferson High School.

6. School lunch discussion (Jim Fitch)

- The school district has a policy that all students should have time to eat lunch. There is no set time – that is set by the schedule made by building principals.
- Question: Are there other students who complain about not having time to eat lunch?
- Q: What is the allotted time? 20 minutes start to finish, though there is some flexibility depending on the day.
- Challenges: How do you put into the schedule enough time to eat, play, and do curriculum?
- If kids don’t get done w/lunch, they are welcome to stay and eat.
- With only 20 minutes, no room for error.
- Patrick: Think about ways to have kids play before they eat.

6. Next meeting Wed., May 28, 2014.

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 p.m.