Wednesday April 11, 2018

**Allen Parent Council Meeting**

Attendees: Adrian Dantzer (PTOC), Alicia Carroll (Vice Treasurer) , Cara Crisostomo, Elizabeth Peters (Treasurer) , Michele Barkoot (President), Noureen Vaid (Vice President) , Takeshia Banks (Secretary), Michelle Clay, Mathilde Burlion, Karen Rendell, Rowdy Perry, Magdalena Sayed, Ben Dantzer, Jeff Hunsinger.

* 5:30 Food and mingle

   6:00 Call to order

* 6:05: Principal’s Report
  + M step to begin for all grades, 5th grade begins tomorrow April 12, 2018.
  + Playground paperwork has been submitted.
    - Some student involvement was received. It was also shared that slides were shown at last PC meeting.
    - Presented to Swift, will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting.
  + Climate Survey, parents are encouraged to complete survey. It takes about 5-10 minutes and gives parents the opportunity to share their thoughts anonymously. One parent mentioned it will go through without mentioning your child’s grades.
  + Parent mentioned that Dr. Swift will be remain a part of the Ann Arbor Public school system. She was a candidate in a school system out of state and did not receive the job. This statement was to rest any concerns that some parents may have had.

 6:16 Officer Elections

* + E-mail was sent out to Allen Community to have any interested candidates respond to President with interests.
  + Current interests include Adrian Dantzer for President, no interest in Vice president although bi-laws do not state one is needed. Treasurers; Alicia and Elizabeth are both willing to stay as treasurers but may switch roles. Secretary, President Michele is willing to take that role, which she has performed in prior to being President. Cara Crisostomo is willing to function as PTOC.
  + Michele Clay motioned for the above elected officers to function in the roles listed above. Tanya Hill seconded that motion. 13 out of 14 in favor, 1 parent did not vote related to being a guest.
* 6: 28 Outdoor Classroom
  + For those that are unaware, outdoor classroom is located off the gym near the 3rd and 5th grade classrooms.
  + Tanya Hill and Adrian Dantzer will be taking over the outdoor Classroom with the goal of it being able to be utilized by next fall.
  + The hope is to revamp the outdoor classroom while conserving the original plan
  + Curriculum items mentioned are exploring soil, how salad is grown, to have the feel of the botanical garden sensory area.
  + Items that are needed include benches, shade. Manpower and resources are also needed. Summer is for the kids to be involved in the manpower needed not just parents which it has been the last volunteer times.
  + How grant was written was brought up, concern was going away from that. Elizabeth provided details of the grants that were given for the outdoor classroom (Lowes, Nature Conservancy, PTO and Washtenaw County CD) they totaled $7,681.07 with $ 1,920.53 remaining.
  + Parents made suggestion of looking on Craigslist, Freecycle, and Facebook Marketplace for the needed items such as bricks, benches and even needed tools.
  + Question by parent is how will the outdoor classroom be utilized by teachers? Tanya stated she has spoken with teachers and at least two have committed to using it at least two times a year.
    - Adrian mentioned that she has background in education and is dedicating her time to assisting with helping with showing teachers how to incorporate the outdoor classroom into their curriculum. Additionally it is hard to set a full plan for fall because curriculum guidelines may change. There is an iPad with lessons on it as well that has to be located within the building. Project grow and Leslie Science center can also assist.
    - A parent mentioned that the outdoor classroom does not just have to be used for Science. It can be a great area for descriptive writing in English or even Mathematics for the younger grades.
  + At this time shades and benches are priority. There may also be more teacher buy in with these items in place.
* 6:46 Book Fair
  + $5,600 with sales tax was made at the book fair this year which was more than last year.
  + The Librarian received $500 cash and $1646 in Scholastic money (Scholastic money you have to buy their books).
  + There may be only a Follet Book fair next year. The benefits seen at this time are you can customize selection of books, less trinkets, fold out displays opposed to having to set it up which means less times for volunteers. Variety of Multicultural and non- English books which will integrate well with Multicultural Night.
    - Questions that arose are they affordable? Book equity? Michele (President) will follow up. Although it was stated that the Librarian is currently in favor of Follet for the reasons listed above.
  + Free new books for all the students in need next year brought up by a parent. There are a lot of children to serve. The idea of having a free book given in general discussed again. A gently used book is a new book to another student.
* 6:55 Teacher Appreciation
  + Plan that are set are for a breakfast and a lunch to be provided.
  + Mimi an Allen Parent brought up the thought of a Tri- Fold board with post it notes where thank you’s can be written.
    - Skyway377@hotmail.com
  + Feedback from parents from last year regarding Teacher Appreciation some found it stressful, some not able to participate, some just felt it was too many things to complete.
* 7:00 Recycling/ Green Team
  + The Green Team was in place prior years, to be a green school an application has to be submitted. Deadline already passed. Will try again next year. There will also be guidelines provided on how to make Allen a Green School.
  + There are still recycling bins in the lunch room, goal is to have more things within school.
  + A teacher that is willing to volunteer time also has to be found.
  + There is a goal to have a no waste day (Mathilda a parent whom is from France is willing to help as well as Michele Clay whom has spent time in Germany).
  + In the future the goal is to look at Resources; food, waste, and packaging. An assembly for No Waste day is a goal and may reach out to Recycle Ann Arbor to assist. Christine from Recycle Ann Arbor will be reached out to even with the hope of coming to school near or around Earth Day.
  + It is also a goal to recycle at the Country Fair, families in the Allen neighborhood have already volunteered to bring their recycle bins.
  + Diversion rates that can be calculated by different groups connected with Ann Arbor.
* 7:04 Upcoming Events
  + April 20th: : 2nd grade Fun Night 6-7:30 pm
  + May: Teacher Appreciation Month
  + May 4th Science Olympiad Celebration
  + May 12th Science Olympiad for the district
  + May 16th Parent Council Meeting
  + June 8th Country Fair
  + June 13th Parent Council Potluck
* 7:08 Old Business
  + Moms Demand Action- President to follow up on. Eberwhite offering a program. An email went out to all Ann Arbor School district about gun safety and the court case this week. Please refer to email from Dr. Swift to reference.

  7:10 Meeting Adjourned by President