

Minutes of Emergency PTSA Membership Meeting 4-25-12

PTSA President Heidi McNamee presided over the meeting that convened at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the SES Cafeteria.

Heidi explained that at least 10 PTSA members needed to attend the meeting for a quorum. At least, 19 people were present at the meeting

Treasurer Cindi Carrell handed out a written description of three interrelated budget actions that the executive committee of the PTSA Board recommended to the membership (attached as page 3).

Cindi gave background that, in response to expected PPS budget cuts, SES administration requested that PTSA determine if it could amend its 2011-12 budget in order to make a grant to the SES Foundation account sufficient to fund .25 FTE. The projected maximum amount needed to make the grant was estimated at \$28,300.

The additional FTE would be used by the administration to replace lost FTE from budget cuts, add flexibility to the administration's response to PPS-wide budget cuts, and could assist in maintaining a half-time position for John Richter at the school.

Cindi explained that one of the immediate concerns about making such a large grant is that it could make fewer PTA funds available to use to support the new Go Fund for student overnight trips. Cindi explained that she and Kristy in the office examined the current status of the Go Fund and determined that the projected need for the Go Fund is within several hundred dollars of what was expected and budgeted.

Also, one of the PTA contractors providing art-related instruction on grades 4-5 art had generously agreed to donate her time for the remainder of the year in response to budget cuts.

Thus, Cindi proposed the three interrelated motions to amend the 2011-12 PTSA Budget:

1. Amend budget line "8th grade internships" to be "Equity Scholarships." No money amount change needed.
2. Accept the contractor's proposal to donate time for 4-5 arts and move remaining funds in this budget line to the "Foundation transfer" below.
3. Add budget line "Foundation transfer" and cost of up to \$28,300 in two phases.
 - Phase 1 – For immediate FTE needs for 2012-13, up to \$20,000
 - Phase 2 – For needs to be determined by the administration team and approved by the Executive Board, the remaining \$8,300 would be transferred by June 30th.

Eric Herr had question about 8th grade internships and whether that was resulting in the loss of a good program. Cindi explained that there was a request for a change in emphasis toward equity by the administration for this budget item, but this was not really a substantive change in the availability of an existing program.

Heidi and Cindi led a brief discussion of the SES Foundation funding and the 1/3 “tax” on funds raised for the SES foundation account over \$10k. The proposed grant takes into consideration that funds beyond the first \$10k will be taxed by the foundation. Dan explained that, based on his reading of information on the Foundation website, the taxed funds to go a Foundation equity account and are not used to support the foundation’s administrative expenses.

Jen O’Connor raised a concern about whether PTSA should be supporting FTE to preserve a specific teacher’s position. There was a discussion about giving the administration greater overall flexibility and that there was no guaranty that this action would even preserve John Richter’s position.

There was additional discussion of the deadlines that PPS would need for the Foundation account to be funded and an explanation the two-tiered approach to the funding that was being recommended to the PTSA membership.

Thereafter, the three proposed budget actions that were proposed as a single motion (see page 3). The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

An announcement was made that Rob Cowey from PPS communications and an SES Parent has agreed to speak about school funding issues at the next PTSA general meeting on May 16.

An announcement was made that a meeting was in progress at Madison HS with PPS Superintendent Carole Smith that was organized by Oregon PTA regarding the budget and inviting people to attend.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Budget Adjustments for 2011-12

Goal:

In response to reduced funding for teachers at Sunnyside, the PTSA Executive Board is recommending adjusting the 2011-12 adopted budget to grant up to \$28,300 to the Sunnyside Environmental School Foundation. This will allow the school administration greater flexibility in staffing. Our goal is to add .25 FTE to our school with the intention of preserving John Richter at our school. However, we understand there is no guarantee we can do so but moving quickly to transfer the money to the Foundation helps give the admin team greater flexibility.

Motions:

Amend budget line “8th grade internships” to be “Equity Scholarships.” No money amount change needed.

Accept contractor’s proposal to donate time for 4-5 arts and move remaining funds in this budget line to the “Foundation transfer” below.

Add budget line “Foundation transfer” and cost of up to \$28,300.

- Phase 1 – For immediate FTE needs for 2012-13, up to \$20,000
- Phase 2 – For needs to be determined by the administration team and approved by the Executive Board, the remaining \$8,300 would be transferred by June 30th.