

PTSA General Meeting Minutes 5-16-12

1. Presentation and donation offer by Don Geddes and Walsh Construction.

Heidi convened the PTSA general membership meeting at approximately 6:30. She introduced Don Geddes from Walsh Construction.

Don explained that he and Walsh Construction has been working with Dana Buhl and the PTSA Safety and Resilience Committee (aka the Rock and Roll Committee) to plan a seismic upgrade and or retrofit at SES. The project is called SSaVE (Sunnyside Seismic Safety Volunteer Effort). Don and Walsh have volunteered to do the work pro bono as part of a pilot project to help improve building safety in the event of an earthquake. Walsh will use their construction expertise along with donated structural and design expertise from Miyamoto International.

Many seismic upgrades do not require major structural changes to the building. For example, attachment of fixtures and shelving can improve safety. Also, nonstructural clay tile walls that will collapse in an earthquake can be reinforced with drywall so that they will not collapse on someone.

PPS, Walsh and Miyamoto have scheduled an initial assessment and walk through at SES on June 2. This will help determine the scope of the project and the resources needed. In addition to providing volunteer expertise, Don announced that Walsh has agreed to a matching grant of \$25k to help cover costs.

The membership engaged in a discussion of volunteer coordination and efforts necessary to make the project work.

2. Elections and Appointment of Board Members

The membership approved the minutes from the January regular meeting and from the April emergency meeting.

Heidi introduced the newly appointed board members for the 2012-13 school year nominated by the nominations committee, including the recommended slate of officers for the four elected positions that will comprise the executive committee of the Board:

Elizabeth Levy, President
Jill Bryant, Vice President
Chena Mesling, Treasurer
Dan Keppler, Secretary

On motion that was seconded, the membership voted unanimously to elect the proposed slate of officer candidates.

3. Treasurer's Report

Cindi Carrell, the outgoing treasurer, gave a recap of PTSA finances for the year. She passed out financial statements and budget to actual spreadsheets. She characterized the year as financially solid year with good cash flows and a significant rollover. Among our big expenses were sustainability and

\$20K for overnights. Among other things, the spring musical made money this year with a participation fee and two sold out shows.

Cindi described the circumstances that led the PTA to call an emergency budget meeting in April in response to an anticipated PPS FTE cuts at SES. The membership voted in that special meeting to free up \$28,300 to use for a grant to the SES Foundation account that could be used to help with staffing at the school. The membership approved up to \$20k + \$8,300 in 2 phases depending on the need and the information we receive from PPS. PTA ended up moving \$15K to the Foundation and expects to move another \$9K. After the initial dire budget predictions, it turns out the school got back 1.61 FTE from PPS resulting from subsequent budget agreements, that originally had been taken away – so SES is unlikely to need to entire grant. The additional \$9K will add .09 FTA to help reinstate another middle school position leaving \$4,300 on table that we may not have to you. Amy discussed some of the workings of HR and the status of approving a .2 middle school assistant to assist with field study.

4. Approval of Budget for 2012-13 School Year

Chena outlined the details of the proposed 2012-13 PTSA budget that the membership was being asked to approve. She noted that for the first time in recent memory, the budget was over \$100k. In addition to Chena's summary of the budget, there was a discussion of budgeting to match the Walsh grant for seismic upgrades. There was also a discussion of the amount of the rollover from this year and discussion of certain line items including the back to school ask, the spring musical, and them middle school play among other issues.

A motion to approve the budget was made and seconded. It passed unanimously by a voice vote.

5. School Funding

Heidi outlined organizations and ways to get involved in the public school funding policy debate. She then welcomed two guest speakers on the subject, Erin Barnett and Doug Wells.

Erin Barnett spoke first. She was surprised to see such a large turnout in a PTA meeting. She is a communication manager at PPS. She first described the current state of the PPS budget, including the tentative agreement with the City of Portland to help with funding in order to save staffing cuts. She mentioned that while this shows that interest groups can be brought together, it is only a temporary fix. Erin also described PPS' ongoing discussions to determine whether there will be a bond measure to help start rebuilding schools. She made a flyer available with the dates of public meetings on the subject of school building needs and the bond measure. She also said interested people can email comments to PPS: schoolmodernization@pps.net.

Erin also described how the current budget situation evolved when PPS faced federal funding cut. She discussed the importance of parent advocacy in the next legislature. Several parents asked questions about the how funding was cobbled together with the city.

Doug Wells gave the next presentation. He is an SES parent, member of the Oregon Quality Education Commission, and is the COO and CFO at Children's Institute. He talked about the politics of educational funding, about quality model for funding. OQEC studies and determines how to improve the education model. Many of the schools that are doing the best are not following the old rules for how schools function. Oregon has a strong desire for local control. Doug described Roosevelt High

School as a case study in school improvement. He called for a teach-in on education funding and to have an event with the people at the policy-making table such as legislators, union leaders, parents, and other interest groups.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30