

PCO Meeting – March 10, 2016

Christy Fitzpatrick Burns reviewed the upcoming calendar items.

Mini Grants – Ryan Little reviewed the mini grant applications which included Game Design Makey Makey (\$260.21) for Rose Papa (5th grade Computer Science exploratory class), Tie Dye Field Day shirts for the Lower School submitted by Ms. Gregory and Kindergarten Literacy game center (\$286.94). Marla motioned to approve and a unanimous decision was made to approve the Game Design and Kindergarten Literacy grants in full and to fund \$500 for shirts and tie dye. Ellen will reach out to Ms. Gregory to see if there's a way to decrease the overall cost of the shirts and tie dye process.

PCO Board Update – Kate Brennan (PCO Board Rep) reported that the Administration is taking the concerns about Schoology seriously and will provide further training during an upcoming night school. The Board is reviewing what is happening in math as well. Q: How much power does the Board have? A: Kate wasn't sure. The Board works closely with the school Administration. Kate mentioned that the Board is going through strategic planning. They're discussing diversity amongst the school. Parents expressed concern about de-tracking math and the Education Committee is focusing on this topic.

Christy mentioned that parent feedback to the Board is very important, either attend a meeting or send a letter. Contact info and meetings times are on the website. Parents can also contact Kate Brennan.

Treasurer's Report – Erica Levin. Erica reported Jon McCann gave the PCO permission to reimburse up to \$500.

Fundraising - Beth Lott mentioned an idea for a fundraiser – “party books”. These are experiences used to help raise money. Anyone with a talent that would like to volunteer can contact Beth. Beth also mentioned that Regent Square yard sale on May 14th. ECS can offer to rent space to parents who want to sell something. Marla mentioned selling plants at the sale.

Beth also thanked everyone who was involved in the Beards for Bucks fundraiser, they raised \$383.

Events – Park Place Clean Up is asking for help. They reached out to Christy. Event takes place on 4/16. Bookfair at the Waterfront Barnes and Noble is 4/16. Movie day at the Waterworks is 4/15.

Parents expressed concern over computer/internet access. Christy informed the PCO that Todd Hoffman implemented Go Guardian which is a more robust firewall that enables them to see searches and open windows.

Counseling – Christy mentioned that Beth Flynn wrote a letter to the Admin advocating the need for a social worker at the school. There's a need for one as there are sensitive topics and financial situations that a social worker could handle. There's also a need for uniforms for students and this is also something a social worker could help coordinate.

Christy mentioned the need for some families to have a ride to certain school events, concerts and social functions. Mandy Cribbs agreed to allow Beth Flynn to arrange an Uber account that could be used for families that need a ride to and from school events.