

**June 2, 2014**

PCO Meeting

Christy read the mission statement.

**Jon McCann – guest speaker**

Jon thanked the PCO for all of their hard work and all of the events and activities they host and sponsor.

**Upper School Construction** – this is the same project as last year. It didn't start last year because of the plumbing bid. The Upper School auditorium will be cleared out by Fri., June 6, 2014. Construction starts on Monday in the auditorium. They're adding a courtyard; food court and music education will be moved to the stage. They're also adding an elevator and renovating the bathrooms. The current lunch room will be the new Science lab and Art room. The Lower level hallway will be reconfigured; they're going to add additional glass on the top level for more light, new doors, and new lighting in the computer lab. The total cost is \$900,000. They took out a traditional loan. Mr. McCann added that this will be the last time that the Operational Budget will be used for renovations. In the future ECS will purchase the building which makes for a healthier ECS (cost \$5,000,000). They also hope to purchase the Lower School in the future (cost \$8,000,000).

**Lower School Playground** – there were issues with the plumbing on the left side of the hill, this has delayed the project. It will be another year before the playground is installed. There are a group of parents working with Tawana Cook on an interim solution.

**Catalyst Project** – Pgh Public School (PPS) Board is not jumping up and down over the amendment to the Charter. The Pgh Foundation supports it. There will be another meeting this month. PPS has been very quiet in general about the expansion. We will hand in the 500 letters at the next meeting. We do have an appeal process that will be taken to the State level if necessary. The topic of Charter School funding has come up and there will be some discussion and a presentation around this topic to help people understand how charter schools are funded. ECS has less than 60% budget (per student) than other PPS schools. We don't dramatically affect the PPS budget in the big picture. Right now ECS has a 9.6 million dollar budget. This comes primarily from PPS district money, state grants and rent reimbursement.

**Board of Trustees Update: Lya Batile**

The Board approved the draft of the budget for next year.

Christy informed the PCO that this is Lya's last year as the PCO Board Rep and Molly Bennett will be the Board Rep for the 2014-15 school year.

**Urban Eco Stewards** – Christy informed the PCO that Rebecca is looking for clippers and gloves. The total cost is \$82.76. This would be a one-time expense that can come out of the Mini Grant funds, as there were some funds left this year. In addition, the PCO would like to give Rebecca \$20/month from spring thru the fall to supply water and snacks for the volunteers. A motion was made to provide \$82.76

for the Urban Stewards equipment and \$20 for snacks. It was a unanimous vote to approve and fund these items.

### **Blooming Bash Funds – Shannon Merenstein guest speaker**

Next year Shannon will be taking on a new position, Arts Coordinator. There will also be a part-time performing arts teacher. Shannon explained that funds from the Blooming Bash have been used for Arts and Music events for K-8 over the past school year. She explained that PE could use some of the funds. Proposed ideas for use include yoga, they will bring in teachers that can train and certify any teacher and include materials. Other activities include: Venture Outdoors – one led activity per grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade- karate instructor, 5<sup>th</sup> grade – dancing, 6<sup>th</sup> grade – fencing, 7<sup>th</sup> grade – geo-caching, 8<sup>th</sup> grade – rock wall at The Factory in Pt Breeze. PE is also looking for funds for permanent equipment. The total cost for these activities/equipment is \$10,000.

A motion was made to approve the use of Blooming Bash funds for this project. It was a unanimous vote to approve the use of Blooming Bash funds for PE use.

### **Benefits of Risk & Outdoor Education – Marjike Hecht**

Marjike met with the PE teachers and Jon McCann about outdoor education. Marjike explained the difference between risk and danger, i.e. risk – rain, danger – high winds. There is a renewed commitment to outdoor education amongst the school administration and staff. Melanie Cowherd and Laura Micco are helping these efforts. The Parks Conservatory is performing professional development training on Outdoor Education across all teachers. Some of the issues that have come up are gear, new teachers just not being aware that they should be taking kids outside and outdoor management of kids. Some solutions discussed to resolve issues include providing outdoor gear to each grade level so students that don't have proper attire for outdoor education have a backup. Several parents have already donated winter gear and a parent has volunteered to organize it and keep the gear in bins at each school. A motion was made to pay for the bins, \$38.48. It was a unanimous vote to approve funding the bins.

### **PCO Committees**

The Meeting Refreshment Committee is looking for a Chair; responsibilities include ordering pizza for PCO meetings.

Staff Recognition Committee and Newsletter Committee –both need Chairs.

Wall Calendar Committee – need good quality photos for the school calendar.

Fundraising Committee – need people to generate ideas and set an annual plan.

Social Committee – need event ideas for the older kids.

Staff Appreciation – needs ideas for staff appreciation.