

PCO Steering Committee Meeting
28 March 2019 6:30-8:00 PM
Agenda

1. Specialist fund update (Jill) (5 minutes)

\$2694.55 remaining, 4 specialists left – need to remind them that they need to request funds by April, otherwise funds will be moved to next year, which will be split by a larger number of specialists.

2. Introducing a discussion of PCO structure that will continue in another meeting (Anna) (10 minutes)

- a. we will begin to gather ideas for PCO structure changes
- b. we will give someone the charge of creating a brief proposal that incorporates these changes for discussion at a future meeting

Discussed how we will structure the PCO once ECS becomes 3 campuses. Main ideas:

1. Go with the flow and decide what to do/what positions needed as needs come up.
2. Limit steering committee to current guidelines of 9-13 members or expand?.
3. Have 1 chair and 2 vice chairs (each representing a different campus).
4. 3 year rotations for positions, with model of diffuse leadership where vice chairs shadow current chair in preparation of future leadership.
5. Concentrate on what we do now well (per survey) and add later on.

3. Inflatables budget for Ms. Gregory (Michelle) (10 minutes)

See info from Michelle: “Since our last meeting, the Upper school has said “Yes! We’d be happy to spend \$250!” But Ms Gregory will still need \$500, as the \$250 won’t go very far for renting inflatables for the kids. We just need the committee to have a vote on increasing the amount to \$500.

\$500 was given as a mini grant last year. This year, the \$500 was moved to a budget line item. Upper school wants half, so to allow Ms. Gregory to still get \$500, we approved upping the budget to \$750 this year. Issues to decide for next year: Do we increase funds to \$1k so there is an equitable split? If trying to be equitable, do we actually need \$1.5k then for 3 schools?

Voted: All in favor of allowing \$500 per Ms. Gregory’s request.

4. Liaison with administration/home office for our meetings (10 minutes)

There’s too much overlap that we don’t know about and we need to coordinate better (ex. We both ordered magnets to sell). We need to get a liaison to come to quarterly meetings. If no liaison, then we should have a steering committee member check in on home office’s meetings.

Chairman will speak with Jon McCann regarding staff participation at events, PCO changes they would like to see, What is on their radar so we can plan for next year.

5. Summary and discussion of survey results (Alison Richardson) (35 minutes)

- a. Alison will present information
- b. We will all have the chance to discuss the info
- c. We will generate some action items around the info

180 responses. Alison passed out a comprehensive summary of the results. Responses indicated we should work more closely with administration and staff, have teacher participation at meetings. There may be a need for PCO specific emails, or at least separate reminders about specific events. We will continue to think over survey for actionable results.

6. Introductory discussion of communication around sensitive issues (PCO Facebook page discussion of racial justice) (Anna) (15)

- a. Anna will summarize the FB conversation
- b. We will begin to identify ways to support families in communicating concerns with one another and the administration
- c. This discussion will continue in a future meeting

Issues about future PCO facebook page. Survey feedback indicates page is causing bad feelings/it is going askew. We agreed that private confidential info should be removed from the page. However, it is a creative space to convey issues to administration (ex. Bias discipline discussion that led to racial justice/Antwon Rose discussion). One facebook page might be too broad? Should the main page be shuttered and individual grade level pages be created?

7. Parent liaison committee (Anna) (5 minutes)

The zero tolerance policy for homework (automatic zero if turned in late) is a big issue for parents, and many are unhappy with the policy. Grade reps can relay the issue to administration, but there is nothing in place for them to have to follow-up. The parent liaison committee is supposed to hold more weight when bringing up issues to administration, because it is backed by the PCO. Will ask Julie Paris (grade rep) if she is willing to monitor the email account and if something arises, to bring it to the PCO's attention.