

Willett PTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Christina Yeung, Vice President, called the Executive Board Meeting of the Willett PTA to order at 7pm in the Willett teacher's lounge.

Attendance: Absent- Joe DiNunzio.

Heema Govindjee-Merchant moved to approve the minutes from February 16, 2016. Abby Koenig seconded the motion. No discussion. All approved. Motion passed.

President's Report-Prepared by Joe DiNunzio and read into the record by Vice President Christina Yeung

Willett PTA Report

- Please give careful attention to the report and recommendations of the Nominating Committee – this is a vital responsibility of this year's board to choose the board and program directors for next year. Thank you to the Committee for all their efforts.
- The first Budget Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 6th at 7p at Davis Roots, 604 2nd Street. The budgeting process is a vital part of our preparation for next year, and I *strongly* encourage you all to join us for the discussions. We anticipate there will be three meetings in total – you do not have to attend all of them – the first meet is vital as it sets the agenda for what we want to fund and thus what we will need to raise for 2016-17.
- The Fundraising Committee will also be meeting soon to discuss the plans for our events for next year. Natalia Baltazar will provide more info later in the meeting, and I encourage all who want to participate on that committee next year to join that session.
- It is great to have the Spring Book Fair off and running – thank you so much to everyone volunteering to help out with the week-long event!
- I am really looking forward to the Willett Family Fun Run on May 1st – Jenn Tucker's update will provide a look into progress and the need for volunteers. Also things will ramp up quickly after break – please make sure to look for the sign-up info / web link the first week back and join us!

Highlights from 3/11/16 SPAC Meeting

- There remains a "persistent" achievement gap in performance of a number of our students – particularly English-learners – in our school district.

- o The School Board has identified this as a priority and will be receiving monthly updates from the DJUSD administration for the foreseeable future on programs and progress.
- o Among the key areas of focus:
 - What are the best elements to measure performance and progress?
 - How do we provide appropriate access to the right courses and support?
 - The Parcel Tax process has started; successful passage is vital for the economic health of the DJUSD
- o \$9.5mil in current taxes set to expire June of 2017; Expected vote to renew this tax in November of 2016
- o Represents 12% of the DJUSD budget, funds myriad things including reduced class size, librarians, counseling, music, and athletics
- o *With* the tax Davis is at the State average for per student funding -- \$9,170 DJUSD vs \$9,262 CA average
- o Without it, DJUSD would be one of only 4 districts in the entire State of our size with that low a level of funding -- \$7,922 per student
- o For reference Palo Alto spends \$15,219 per student and Berkeley \$13,649
- o Failure to pass the vote is could result in up to 150 FTE reduction – nearly 20% of staff
- o School Board President Madhavi Sunder will be addressing our PTA on this at an upcoming meeting
- Supervisor Search
 - o The School Board has hired a professional search firm (Leadership & Associates) to identify the new DJUSD Superintendent
 - o More information on the process is available at DJUSD.net – the approach was discussed in an open meeting last Tuesday, March 8th
 - o Candidates, comments, and recommendations can be emailed to the District via superintendentsearch@djud.net
 - PTA/PTO, booster, and other fundraising
 - o Concern has been raised about the challenges of managing so many entities raising funds on behalf of the DJUSD schools and programs
 - o SPAC members have agreed to meet in a facilitated session to discuss what can be done to more effectively cooperate, coordinate, and support each other’s efforts. I will facilitate the initial discussions – anyone interest in joining is welcome, please email me.

- School start time update

- o Junior High will start at 830a starting with the 2016-17 school year

- o High school start time is still being resolved, goal is to implement as soon as possible but it is a more complicated challenge given the courses, activities, and traffic with North Davis Elementary

- Security audit update

- o Information will be discussed at the next School Board Meeting 3/17

- o We will share any appropriate info on Willett on our website and at the next PTA meeting in April

- School / Business Partnership

- o Chamber of Commerce has reinstated the Committee working to promote a stronger partnership between the local businesses and the DJUSD

- o Susan Kirby from Da Vinci high is Chairing the Committee, work has begun to identify a specific set of activities that can be pursued, including internships, job skills training, and economic support

- o Anyone interested in providing ideas or participating in the process can email me

Principal's report-Heidi Perry

- Deb Garrity was hired as the new reading specialist. She will begin her position on April 4th. She can be reached by email at dgarrity@djUSD.net
- Heidi thanked everyone on the Hiring Panel.
- Heidi announced that there will be two new intermediate positions open for next year.
- The Hiring Panel will be conducting interviews on March 31st from 1-7pm.
- Heidi asks that room parents send out reminders to turn in Student Intent to Return forms by April 1, 2016.
- Mimi Monson had Baby Scarlett on Saturday, March 12, 2016. Congratulations to her!
- Her position will not be posted until after Kindergarten registration.
- Ms. Perry was very impressed with the new student council speeches for spring term.
- Open House will be on April 7th. Announcements will be held in the quad from 6:45-7:00. Classrooms will be open from 7:00-8:00.
- Book Fair and conferences will be held March 14-18. Early dismissal for all grades, except for afternoon Kindergarten.

Kelly Clark –Nominating Committee

- Kelly is recruiting for help with Bravo and Box Tops. She asks that parents get the word out to other parents for volunteers.
- Kelly read the PTA Board Proposed Slate for 2016-2017 into the record.

- Please see attachment.
- The proposed slate will go to the board for approval at the next board meeting.

Jenn Tucker-Fun Run

- Enthusiastic to get the Fun Run off the ground!
- Please direct all questions to Jenn Tucker.
- Police permits have been secured for street closures and traffic.
- She is still recruiting volunteers, so please help get the word out.
- Matt Donner will provide music.
- Heidi Perry will emcee the event.
- Mayor Dan Wolk will have student "Mayor of the Day" to start the races.
- Parents are encouraged to run.
- On line registration will be for the week of April 11th, only! So please encourage parents and students to register.
- There will be no chance to register at the event.
- In-kind donations for refreshments, supplies, registration packets, and fun fair packets.
- Volunteers are needed to run games, etc.
- One parent volunteer is needed to run and supervise tetherball.
- Jenn and Joe will talk to students at the assembly on April 1st to get them excited about the Fun Run.

Christina Yeung-Budget Committee

- Budget Committee will have its first meeting on Wednesday, April 6th, at 7pm at Davis Roots
- First meeting to set the agenda for what PTA wants to fund for the upcoming school year.

Angela Schneider-Book Fair

- Book Fair update - 900 books sold as of today. Goal is 1,500 books!

Ad hoc-items

Chris Fluetsch- Library Update

- All supplies for the library are funded by the PTA, which contributes \$6,000 per year for new books and supplies.
- This year the library added 462 new books.
- Everything in the library has been cataloged and accounted for.
- The goal is to have a new order of books monthly with a big order to be made after the Book Fair.
- Book circulation-15,000 books checked out. 2,000-3,000 books monthly.
- The library will be open Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings during the summer.
- Teachers are working on "suggested reading" lists for the summer.

- Collection size of books for check out is 31,000, which is second in the district next to Davis Senior High.
- Read Around Willett is Thursday, March 17th, from 5:30-6:30.

Cristal Waters- Active4Me

- “Hootie” party will be on Wednesday, April 27th, after school.
- Cristal has been gathering prizes and has been awarded a parent donation to go towards buying better prizes.
- Cristal has organized the party to be “less chaotic”. There will be two separate tables. She will also ask that parents stay out of the line and help at the tables.
- Cristal is working on having a special T-shirt designed for scanner parents to wear so that they are identifiable.
- Kids will be able to purchase a T-shirt with their “Hootie money.”

Heema Govindjee-Merchant –Website

- PTA highlights is featuring the Book Fair.
- It will feature the Fun Run on the website. A link is needed for Fun Run registration.

Wendy Allen- English Learner Specialist

- Wendy is working with a parent for EL parents to help with translating website tab or a logo so it will be more user-friendly.
- Wendy Allen has resigned and her position will be open for the 2016-2017 school year.
- The position is for .5 EL Specialist.

Abby Koenig- Reported on an upcoming lecture about smart phone use during “driving” and other dangerous situations on April 27th from 7:00-9:00.

2nd grade dance performance will be on April 27, 2016 from 6:30-7:30.

Christina moves to adjourn 7:52