

Julian PTO Meeting Notes  
Monday, May 9, 2016  
7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Julian Media Room

**Attendees:** Kate Lawler, Lori McConnell, Kynyada Pipkin, Debra Woods, Denise Roser, Lisa Pintado Vertner, Aimee Conrad, Kristi Oltman, Chris Brennan, Mariannell Bassett-Dilley, David Benson, Lisa Sensat, Ed Klinger, Christina Darley.

- **Odyssey of the Mind Team Thank You:** Denise Roser presented thank you notes from Odyssey of the Mind Team. PTO provided t-shirts and stipend for World Competition. Team brought back a trophy for 1<sup>st</sup> place for IL. Mr. Benson said that Julian would be proud to receive the trophy. There is a challenge to find space for trophies and awards. An effort is made to rotate trophies so that visible trophies are current with student body.

- **Principal's Report:** Mr. Benson presented Principal's report on behalf of Dr. Fitzgerald. School is completing the master schedule for next year. An important emphasis has been on giving teachers common planning time across grade level (same grade off at same time) – one of three major tenets set by superintendent and administration. Also a priority to provide 80 minutes per day of support in Math and Reading for 15% of students at lowest end of academic performance. Finished PARC testing. Hiring staff for next year – 4 staff leaving – 1 math, 1 LA, 2 special ed. Preparing for graduation, transition to new school year, wrapping up school year. Audit of this year's initiatives.

#### **Questions for Mr. Benson:**

MAP testing this week – spread out over 2 weeks depending on academic team

TA situation for next year? Do not anticipate any additional TAs. Number of TAs assigned by Human Resources. Number of special ed students – including IEPs -- has impact on number of TAs. Currently have 5, used to be 8-9.

Has the initiative to have more frequent feedback from administrators to teachers been successful? Yes -- goal has been to visit each teacher's classroom at least once a week for at least 15 minutes and provide written feedback on strengths and weakness through a Google doc with 8-10 drop-downs: level of instruction, instructional technology, learning environment. Have data. Slightly over 500 visits by administration staff. Creates a dialogue. Teachers appreciated feedback, want administration to know what is happening in the classroom.

- March minutes approved.
- Dine Around Town – Not able to do it in March. Lauren trying for Felony Franks for May.

● **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance -- Kynyada Pipken:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance this Saturday. Everything on schedule. Big concern is that we need volunteers for the day of for decorating 12-4pm, and during the dance 7-10 (coat check, run games, hall monitors, etc). Debra will send out a blast. Free ticket for student artist. Tickets sales Wed. Thurs, Fri. \$10 upfront, \$15 at door.

● **Treasurer's Report – Ed Klinger:** Presented Treasurer's Report through end of April 2016. Ed also provided detail of \$2519.39 spent as of 4/30/16 from General Discretionary Fund. Each team gets an amount (used to be per teacher). Teams should know that there are still funds in Discretionary Support left if they want to make purchases before the end of the year. Ed will send a note to Tim Walsh who can communicate balance to teachers. Sent \$2500 contribution to Oak Park Educational Foundation for annual fundraiser. \$2500 to principal for end of year trips, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-D printer, etc. Will build into budget ongoing expense of \$750-\$1,000 per year for student on free or reduced lunch who have negative balance so that they can continue having lunch. Post April 30 expenses – \$900 for library furniture; \$600 Odyssey Team trip; \$500 for choir. We can continue to review General Discretionary Fund over summer and next year to gauge emerging needs. A possible special project for next year might be to subsidize field trips.

● **President's Report – Lisa Sensat and Mariannell Bassett-Dilley**

**Parent/Kid Program – “What I Wish I Knew Before Getting to OPRF”** – this Wed. 7 pm at Brooks. We will be doing this jointly with Brooks and Roosevelt.

**Brooks/Julian PTO Parent Program – “Executive Functions and Your Middle School Student”** – this was the last talk of the year. Attended by over 80 parents. Next year we will try to make this in the Fall.

**Spring Flower Sale** – This Friday is pick-up. Debra will send out a blast by Wednesday.

**Staff Appreciation Breakfast** – this Wednesday, May 11 8-8:50am. There is a sign-up Genius for 6 volunteers per shift in addition to the committee. Parents are cooking – saves a lot of money. Small monetary gift for each staff person.

**Vote on bike expenditure** – Among requests that PTO received was request for some new bikes at a cost of approximately \$12,000. Biggest concern raised was precedent-setting on a capital expense. Middle school PTO generally does not fund large expenses of this support. Mr. Fitzgerald has communicated to PTO that this exception would be appreciated at this time as it would be several years before such a purchase could be made. Participants voted and expense was approved. Lisa will notify Mr. Featherstone. D97 will make purchase and PTO will reimburse. This will be for the Fall.

**Next Year's Board – a work in progress:**

Presidents – Lisa Sensat and Mariannell Bassett-Dilley

Treasurer – Ed Klinger

Fundraising – we do not have anyone yet (like this year)

Programs – Lauren Zylstra and Lesa Kiefer

Volunteer Coordinators – Stephanie Kloster-Delarosa and Kristi Oltman

Green/Wellness – Lisa Pintado-Vertner and Amanda Hendrixson

Communications – Debra Woods and Ellen Maliff

**Still need someone to co-manage the PTO Lunch Fundraiser** -- One person will do Excel spreadsheet. Second person is team coordinator who organizes parents who distribute lunches. Also collect cash from students who purchase day of and deposit cash at bank.

At beginning of year some questions were raised about whether to continue with Jimmy John's because owner is a large game hunter. Sales have gone up since we switched to Jimmy John's and PTO is able to give money back to school. Dominos has also given good prices and services. A lot of legwork done at beginning of year to negotiate good prices. Decision to stay with Dominos and Jimmy John's for next year.