Julian PTO Meeting

Monday, May 14, 2018

7-8:30

Present: Aimee Conrad, Cynthia Brito, Nathan Montes, Bobbi Shaper Eastman, Stephanie Kloster-DeLaRosa, Lesa Kiefer, Debra Woods, Lori McConnell, Todd Fitzgerald, Denise Frank, Sarah Miller, Mike Poirer, Terry Keleher, Elizabeth Chi, Wendy Barrett, Felicia Moore, Rob Breymaier, Michele Greco-Blonski

**Remarks by Dr. Fitzgerald**

\* Staff are working on 2018-2019 scheduling, and also beginning to think about the 2019-2020 school schedule. Staff feel that a 9-period day with 40-minute classes does not offer adequate instructional time.

\* We have started to implement PBIS. The MTSS (Multi-tiered system of support) team is looking at how to implement this in classrooms. The student advisory board has also been involved. Students feel strongly that they want to go to EVERY class on the first day.

\* Our 8th grade party was an outstanding success. Students were well-behaved and had a great time.

\* 8th graders are working on community projects. This Thursday, a number of students are fundraising during the lunch periods. Students are encouraged to bring a couple dollars to contribute.

\* Tribute to Excellence is May 24, to recognize students who are outstanding in civic duty/community service.

\* The garden is off to a great start. Students and teachers have been involved. The garden (design and work) has been student-lead. Dr. Fitzgerald thanks the PTO for their support.

\* Summer begins with an administrative retreat focused on next year’s school improvement plan.

Q: Can we publicize those student community projects?

Dr. Fitzgerald: Will get it out via school messenger.

**Imagine OPRF**

\* A group of 29 community members, 11 faculty and staff. The group is representative of the diversity in the community. We are developing a long-range facilities master plan for the high school.

\* The group is divided into 4 subcommittees: athletic, athletic, fine/performing arts, whole building. We are hoping to address the social-emotional needs of the students, as many do not feel welcome. Faculty feel that the building itself inhibits their teaching style. The community engagement meetings are meant to get community feedback on the 3 design concepts we currently have.

\* We have yet to address financing.

\* If all the work we’re looking at gets done, it will take 7-10 years.

Q: When will construction start?

A: Potentially summer of 2019.

Q: How much of the issues are big infrastructure issues vs. refurbishing issues?

A: They do update furniture on a regular schedule, but some issues are built-in and come down to an overall conceptual update. It’s all been piecemeal so far. There needs to be a holistic approach.

Q: If you haven’t toured yet, will you be lost, or will you be able to offer meaningful feedback.

A: The meetings in May will start with orienting people.

**PTO Board Elections**

\* Denise Frank is going to step into co-VP of Green/Wellness

\* Bobbie Eastman is stepping on to VP of fundraising (lunch)

(Both were elected. )

\* We still need VP’s of programming, and a secretary.

\* Debra is moving into VP of communications

\* Lori McConnell is currently the only president, and is hoping someone will step up to co-president with her.

**Budget Report**

\* We’ll have a balance of about $40,000 at the end of the year. We do have several funding requests.

\* Should we open requests for funding from the parent community? All of these grants come from teachers. (This is feedback that came from an elementary school PTO.)

\* Should we use an application process and have a review committee so that we can ensure that grantees have a clear plan?

\* Dr. Fitzgerald pointed out that we want to avoid starting things that are sustainable, so something that was based on a particular parent’s interest might not be.

The following decisions were made regarding teacher requests:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Approved** | **Not Approved** |
| 4 clear-com headsets for CAST ($2400) | $1,500 for fitness bike |
| $200 Mosaic Mural tile | $2,646.91 for library - will be approved next year. |
|  | $500 for headphones |
|  | $945 books for Spanish |
|  | $681 books for Spanish |

**D97 Equity Policy**

\* Rob Breymaier: Looking for community feedback on the policy.

\* What else should we cover besides curriculum? (Hiring, discipline, etc.)

\* Should the policy only be about what D97 has control over, or over ALL those we partner with (PTO, Hepzibah, etc.)?

\* Do we focus only on race, or a wider variety of ideas, such as disability, gender, etc?

Q: What is the policy trying to accomplish?

A: We have a gap in achievement connected to race. We want to end it.

Suggestion: Some kind of community survey and information/data would help. Include the teacher’s union.

A: Teachers and students are being included.

Comment: This should be a living document so that it can be periodically updated as people come to the table. This community is so multi-layered that I don’t think the goal of a policy everyone can agree on makes sense. I’d like to see the board delve into research on what equity policies actually make an impact.

A: Rob agreed that we needed accountability and more than just prose. There is a draft of a policy on the website, and we did begin with some existing policies from other organizations. We are trying not to tell people what to think at this phase - we really want to hear where people stand.

Q: Has D97 tried this before?

A: No.

Comment: We should stick with what we can control at this time, then perhaps consider vendors, etc once we have a more clear policy.

Q: How effective can this be if it’s not moved forward through a broader agenda of social justice?

A: Rob agrees, but is looking for pragmatically where to start.

Comment: Schools don’t operate in a vacuum. Our policy should address differences - privilege, marginalization, etc.

A: The policy should put things in place such that race isn’t a predominant factor in outcomes.

Comment: You can’t have equity if you don’t have a teaching staff that represents the student body.

Rob welcomes deeper responses, and they can be sent to equity@d97.org. You can also email directly to Rob at breymaierr@d97.org

**PTO Roundtable**

Committee Updates:

Fundraising/PTO lunch - Bobbie Shaper Eastman

\* The program now has a specific gmail account (Julianptolunch@gmail) to streamline communication. Bobbie is going to get more involvement over the summer and try to get people trained earlier. She is also potentially shopping another vendor for sandwiches because we’re being charged a lot.

Diversity - We are trying to partner with Brooks to look at the issues that are specific to the middle school experience. We are also trying to look at policies and procedures on how diversity issues should be handled when they arise.

Volunteers from Orientation Night - We did get some names. We will follow up with those people.

Staff Appreciation Breakfast - plenty of food and plenty of volunteers.

Eighth Grade Dance - Melanie thanks the PTO for their support, as well as Julian staff. Parent volunteers were fantastic. Melanie has only received positive feedback. Pizza was donated/delivered. Final ticket sales were somewhere around 200. The total budget was around $3,047.

Suggestions: Lots of dads dropped off stuff, but did not volunteer. How can we get more involvement from men in future years? Website could have been more welcoming/encouraging about the dance. Could any of these expenses be bundled and paid for at the beginning of the year? Having student ownership was meaningful.

Last month’s minutes were approved.