

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING: October 13, 2015

Co-Chairs: Mick O'Dea and Ashlei Parris

MEETING MINUTES

1) Principal Erin Borthwick's Update

- ❖ Work continues on Mozart's focus areas
- ❖ Teachers working on Universal Design for Learning, a method of instructional planning
- ❖ Focus on writing continues for upper grades
- ❖ Culturally Relevant Practices - met with Paula Lima at YWCA. Will be hosting dialogues about race with students, teachers, families in spring. Sumner, Bates, Curley, other schools have worked with them successfully

2) Treasurer Report

- ❖ Balance is \$962; need some fundraising help (see Committee Updates below)

3) Making Music Matters Scholarship

- ❖ Council voted to provide scholarship for a student to attend who otherwise couldn't due to financial hardship

4) Game Night!

- ❖ Saturday, October 16, 6 - 8 pm
- ❖ Papa's Potluck - fathers bring dishes to share, one wins golden spoon award!
- ❖ Parent Council members volunteered to come at 5:30 to help set up.
- ❖ Parent Council agreed to hold a fundraiser at Game Night - 50/50 Raffle.

5) Committees

- ❖ Wellness Committee - family voice for school with regards to wellness policy
- ❖ Fundraising Committee - plans and implement fundraisers (including Bake Sale)
 - Parent Council members signed up to be on Fundraising Committee and/or support with bake sale. Ellen O'Brien volunteered to take lead on bake sale.
 - Jess trying to get grants for sunshade for outside
 - Follow Up: If anyone knows name of dermatologist who might be a potential sponsor, let Jess know
 - Council discussed: We need a flyer for automatic donations.
 - Follow Up: Ashlei Parris volunteered to create that flyer.
 - Council discussed: When is a good time to do crowdfunding? Last year, holiday time was tough. Got over \$3,000, but short list of donors; we want to reach a larger number of donors, including those who give smaller amounts. Thought was raised that tax break time might be better time to do crowdfunding.
 - Follow Up: Fundraising committee to tackle this!

6) Homework

- ❖ Parent Council identified two issues with homework:
 - 1) Some homework sheets are confusing/inaccurate (eg, clock hands are same length, nickels and dimes pictured as the same size).
 - 2) Interest in big picture conversation: What is purpose of homework at Mozart?
- ❖ Follow Up:
 - Issue #1: Collect problematic homework sheets, give to Michael O'Dea.
 - Issue #2: Ashlei Parris to discuss issue with Principal Borthwick and follow up at next Council Meeting; research HW policy in BPS.

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7) Upcoming Events

- ❖ Rock Star Dress Up Day - October 30th. Theme is to dress up like person, character, or animal who represents Mozart values (Respect, Openness, Cooperation, Kindness).
- ❖ Election Day Bake Sale - November 3rd
- ❖ 3rd Grade Concert - November 4th

8) Karla Jenkins - Engagement Liason with BPS

- ❖ Karla introduced herself to Parent Council. Karla supports Mozart and 29 other schools; supports family, student, and community engagement at those schools
- ❖ Karla congratulated Mozart on becoming a family friendly school! Specifically, this means that the Mozart:
 - Met climate survey return rate of at least 50%
 - Hosted a site visit and gave interviews in spring; through that process, Mozart earned family friendly school certification
 - Mozart is one of only 4 schools out of the 128 in all of BPS that has this certification; the others are Otis, PJ Kennedy, and McKay
- ❖ What are the benefits of earning this distinction? Karla shared that more people will see the Mozart as a place they want to be.
- ❖ Karla advocated for parents to explore even more deeply the conversation around homework, understanding the curriculum and why we're learning what we're learning

9) Extended Learning

- ❖ Plan is to add 40 minutes at end of day. Don't yet know exact date of when it starts.
- ❖ Council discussed: Could we start school earlier instead of end later, or is the scheduled already settled?
 - Follow Up: Ashlei to follow up with Principal Borthwick to confirm details as well as to see if it's still an open discussion to explore start time.

11) Culturally Relevant Practices

- ❖ Council discussed what could happen between now and spring regarding this focus area. Discussed more details about work with YWCA: there will be 5 2-hour sessions (5:30 - 7:30 pm) with 15-25 parents and teachers. Mozart will provide child care.
 - Follow Up: Ashlei to follow up with Principal Borthwick and ask to share at next meeting: What's happening now regarding this value within the school? What have been benefits to Bates and the other schools of this process?

12) Question of Extending 6th Grade

- ❖ Council discussed: Could we advocate to superintendent about exploring space, to expand to 6th grade?
 - Follow Up: Jess to start up committee

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Next Steps

| Who | What |
|------------------------|---|
| Ashlei | <p>Follow up with Principal Borthwick on the following; share updates at next Parent Council meeting:</p> <p>1) Culturally Relevant Practices: Could Erin share at next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What's happening now regarding this Culturally Relevant Practices focus area within the school?▪ What have been the benefits to Bates and the other schools of this process? <p>2) Extended Learning - Details of the plans, as well as to see if it's still an open discussion to explore earlier start time rather than later end time.</p> <p>3) Homework - What is the policy/what's required from BPS re: homework? What is Mozart's philosophy and approach around homework at each grade level? What, if anything, can be done regarding homework sheets that are confusing/problematic?</p> <p>Create flyer to solicit automatic donations to Mozart.</p> |
| Ellen | Organize and send updates around Bake Sale. |
| Jess | Launch committee to explore potential of expanding to 6 th grade |
| All Interested Parents | Sign up for Fundraising Committee, Wellness Committee, and Election Day Bake Sale. |
| | Collect problematic homework sheets and give to Michael. |
| | Let Jess know of potential sponsors for sunshade. |