

Ivy School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

General Meeting Minutes

09.14.16

Council & Committee Chairs Present: Leah Maurer, Caitlyn Howell, Laura Sciortino, Anna Doogan, Resa Tufts, Christine Steele, Joy Rothschild, Julianne Baxter

Leadership Present: Liz Caravaca

Additional Attendees and Participants:

Jim Livermore, Jones Estes, Muriah Gerrard, Chris Andrews, Tawn Reiland, Kim Marcate, John Classen, Kayt de Fever, Robyn Faraone, Micah Kaufman, Jenn Falco, Jason Falco – Van W-

Welcoming Remarks

- Welcome and thanks to attendees for coming, introductions, attendance sign-in sheet
- Officers introduced
- Ivy PTA Overview
 - Partnership between parents and teachers – support the school
 - Volunteer and be involved
 - Anyone can attend meetings
 - For voting, membership required – sign up if you would like \$12 per person

Motion to Approve June General PTA Minutes

- ***Motion to amend*** to include check-writing privileges for
- Move to approve meeting minutes from June mtg. including this amendment
- ***Motion and amendment carried***

Ivy School Leadership Update from Liz Caravaca

- First week going great
- Prescott campus teaching staff updates
- Prescott bldg. got new AC
- Morris campus – 7 of 8 teachers returned – strong retention
- New Montessori coach to be working alongside teachers in all the classrooms – working to implement teacher evaluation framework
- Ivy is hosting a training for observation-based assessment at Montessori which gives ability to assess students outside of traditional academic functions

- Great meeting with banker and accountant– figured out how to set up templates – will make it easier to communicate with bank
- Ivy has an accountant now
- We will have an email that will go specifically to our Accountant (and future Bookkeeper)
- Ivy's IT is Gray Wolf IT – serves 10 charter schools –there will be no unrestricted browsing and an application for 4th – 8th graders in which teachers can monitor browsing activity – meets child internet protection act requirements
- There's an Equity Council Mtg. coming up (following Board Mtg) - Coordinator Jenn Falco spoke about Equity Council – goals are simple – reach out to entire Ivy community about how we define equity – first meeting is the 4th Monday of the month directly after the board mtg. – jf466@cornell.edu - to express interest or with questions
- Liz will be setting up more councils that will be advising her – will be tremendous opportunity for Ivy
- Teachers have been working on how to navigate fair and balanced conversations with their students
- Campus Support Coordinators are the new titles for Amy Stuhr and Anne O'Neil – they are the boots on the ground, day to day contact for each campus – person you go to for all concerns, AFTER going to child's teacher of course for classroom-related matters
- Communications this year:
 - School-wide initiatives and other school-wide news in Ivy Newsletter
 - School news in the classroom newsletters each week as much as possible
- Back to School nights are coming up (classroom based)

Officer and Chairperson Updates

Outdoors Committee

- First work party was well attended and a great success
- Will be seeking Garden coordinators for each classroom to support classroom gardens

Spirit

- Oxbow Campout and Potluck on Saturday at 1 pm
 - Should be really fun – activities of all kinds
 - Refer to online RSVP – it's coming up on DATE
 - Camping equipment sharing system and other details on the online RSVP
- Monster Bowl is next event after Campout – stay tuned
- Ice Skating party – date TBD

- Spring Events – TBD

Room Parent Coordinator Report

- Still Seeking Room Parent volunteers (2 slots per classroom)

Chinook Book Fundraiser

- Still seeking people to help us coordinate across each campus

President

- Overall goal of PTA – to support our teachers!
- We hosted Big Breakfast and coffee for teachers at beginning of the year as they prepare for the school year (annual tradition)
- We provide Coffee and cream & snacks throughout school year
- We provide First Friday staff meetings – we supply lunches at each campus
- Looking for parent volunteers to help deliver and set up
- A few of us overhauled teacher break room and storage room at Morris campus – still working on it – cleaned up but haven't spent money yet

Treasurer – *motion to approve budget – motion carried*

- July 1 – June 30 is the fiscal year
- PTA is a separate 501 C 3 from Ivy School – operate under state PTA – allows us to be insured under the state PTA
- 2016-17 Budget – approximately 10K in the budget – grouped roughly by committee – each has a discretionary amount – simpler this year – even if we approve this today, we can still change it later
- Each room has \$300 for supplies and other things teachers might need
- Moneys allocated to be used for school library, snacks, and all the committees
- ***Motion*** to again this year allow Officers to make immediate approvals of expenses at a cap of \$100 for decisions that shouldn't wait until next PTA mtg.- outside of the meetings – ***seconded and approved***

New Business

Winter Clothing Closet

- PPS has a Clothing Closet – regardless of income, anyone can attend and take clothing for their children – to participate we need to volunteer – located at Marshall High School during the day – more later about these details; we will also do a clothing drive as a school participant

Brainstorm topics for future discussion / in-services for parents

- Less time on voting, more time on meaningful programming discussion, input, and education/in-services – invitation to brainstorm ideas
- Ideas that came up:
 - Charter Equity Funding Bill – letter-writing party and local legislators to visit the school
 - Ways to build community such as morning coffees
 - Parent education nights
 - Utilizing AnnaBeth (Montessori coach) as a resource – how parents can support Montessori education, for example

Next Meeting

- Our meetings happen at every other campus the 2nd Wed of each month
- Next meeting is October 12 at Morris Campus

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30