

PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WITH PRINCIPAL YOLONDA BROWN
School Reform Team 3 Offices
1631 La France Drive
Atlanta, GA
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
3:00 PM

Present: Yolonda Brown, Elizabeth Lieberman, Clare Richie, Steve Fazenbaker
Invited Guest: Mary Stouffer (Transportation and Safety Chair)
Absent: Guido Sacchi

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM. The agenda was distributed and accepted.

Update from Ms. Brown

- Information Technology – Ms. Brown met with APS IT and Dr. Gloria Patterson; APS is trying to standardize Information Technology for new schools. Ms Brown has *requested* the following technology for the new school (i.e. these items are not yet approved):
 - Promethean boards in all 21 classes
 - Six sets of hand held Activotes to use with Promethean boards (1 set / grade). One set includes 24 Activotes.
 - Mac Lab w/ 26 computers
 - Laptop cart w/ 24 computers
 - 4 computers per classroom
 - Printers (some networked in central locations, some in classroom). Students will have access to printers. These will be heavy duty laser printers (faster than the ink jet).
 - 3 copiers (one in Rutland building, one in new building, one in Hirsch building)
 - 30 iPods to pilot podcasts, announcements, etc.
 - Laminating machine (new school may acquire C.W. Hill's machine, or may purchase a new one)
 - APS IT staff members are trained in the various technologies – they then train the end users.

(Ms. Brown will meet with IT reps again next Wednesday)

- Gym – The new school will use the Druid Hills United Methodist Church (DHUMC) gym. It is scheduled for renovation and will not be available until October. Ms. Brown spoke with Carla Pennyman, and learned that she is working on a rental agreement, parking, and use of DHUMC facilities after 5:00 PM. Mary Stouffer will check MES calendar to see how many events happen after 5:00 PM so we can let DHUMC know how many times we anticipate needing the gym in the evening. The current estimate is 6 times in one year after hours. The cafeteria holds 250 so the gym will only be needed after hours for larger events, such as, a family science night, etc. Back to School Night can be broken up into two nights as is currently done at MES. A discussion was held involving creative ways to offer physical education until the gym is available. This discussion will be continued as parents, teachers and the principal work on a plan for physical education for plan for August through October.
- Registration – Mary Lin will register current students zoned for the new school in May; MES will register current students for new school during its registration also. Kindergarten registration will take place at the current MES Kindergarten campus. Ms. Brown will review current registration forms and suggest updates to facilitate registration for the new school. (Ms. Brown and Mary Stouffer will meet individually to discuss transportation information to be included in registration.)

- School Name – This is an Atlanta School Board driven process designed to have community input. According to Cecily Harsch-Kinnane, Atlanta School Board of Education, on March 9, 2009 the Atlanta School Board of Education formally announced the beginning of the process to name the New NE School. The special committee appointed by the Atlanta School Board of Education has not yet been formally announced. Based on conversations with Ms. Harsch-Kinnane, we believe this process is about a month with the special committee meeting to discuss school name nominations. The special committee would bring the committee's recommendation to the Atlanta School Board of Education at the April 13, 2009 meeting for approval. More details are expected to be posted on the APS website this week or next. Ms. Brown stated that Southside High School recently changed its name to Maynard Jackson High School, and suggested that the executive board look at the process followed at the high school, for additional insight.
- Fundraising – A proposed letter offered by the Fundraising Committee was distributed. The Fundraising Committee would like to move forward with the letter campaign immediately, followed by an event in late spring and a grand opening event. (*Note: the original date for the spring event, April 25th, is not practical because it conflicts with the Inman Park Festival– a new date is being explored.*) The letter will be given to a design firm to be formatted in HTML so it can be sent by email. The fundraising goal is to raise \$50,000 for items detailed in the letter (e.g., enrichment activities for students). The brick campaign has been postponed but rising new school students will still have an opportunity to paint a tile for the new school (details to follow with the spring event).

Ms. Brown was in favor of each of the above decisions made by the Fundraising Committee. She stated that she would like to meet with area realtors, as the new school will have an impact on property values.

Transportation

Ms. Brown will be working on transportation issues on March 12th. Number of bus riders is uncertain at this time, but the anticipation, based on current ridership, is that it will be a high percentage – most of Midtown, most of Virginia-Highlands, and most of Poncey-Highlands. Also anticipate that students who do not ride the bus will be carpoolers or walkers. Bus riding will be strongly encouraged to minimize traffic in the area; would like to see ~275 of the 340 students riding the bus. It was pointed out that more students ride the bus in the afternoon than in the morning. Ms. Brown would like to see a decrease in the number of cars transporting children to / from school, for environmental and logistical reasons. Mary Stouffer will obtain a large map of the new school zone from the City of Atlanta Planning Department.

Preparation for March 12th Meeting

Clare shared the questions received from the community that Ms. Brown will be asked to address during the PTO General Meeting on March 12th. The order of the agenda was also shared.

The next meeting of the Executive Board with Ms. Brown was scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 3:00 PM at the SRT-3 Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Fazenbaker