

PTSO Meeting
February 23, 2015

First Order: Updates

Jeff:

-EIP fundraising upcoming event: Plenty of opportunities left for volunteering at EIP. If one wants to make a donation they can do it thru the teacher fund so that their classes teacher can go to

-(Points to projector) Fund-a-Need: Last year was AV systems 22, 000 This year is for smart boards in the classrooms 1/3 of smart boards, 30,000 We will keep doing it until we get them all- tech is desirable for teachers and students and they use it everyday

Introduction:-Parent elect school board member

What separates AL is parent participation

-Construction problems with weather, a little bit behind schedule, in line with budget projections though, steel was finally delivered and some inconvenience with noise from teachers, Mme Israel (at meeting) is tolerating, Sarah Guthrie for fundraising numbers,

Oak street update-updating old building boiler is updated

-#1 thing High school updates-Long frustrating process-We are either going to do something or nothing at all, Chad Phillips was just contacted to see if there are any updates on amended term sheet, all boards must approve, a very important juncture, is not able to go in to detail right now, countless hours have been put in, meetings lasting for 3 hours at a time. He has 2nd and 3rd graders as well,

-Will the Westport Location be used instead of Southwest

-possibly, might have backup plan, maybe excluding district

-?Jeff-Is this starting back from square one?

-No, IB-Jessica has started-ground work has already been started, delayed but not denied, work from volunteers is not going away, a lot of leg work that has not ground zero

2 ?s -Fall 2016 not 2015? #1 when construction finished, #2 security entrance on Oak

-delay with construction

-Heather Royce- June 15th 3rd graders in summer school-we still could accomodate 3rd grade here without building but not dyre situation

-No additional cost

-Entrance for Oak-they are going back and giving us a little more detail with current capacity of budget, something that fits in with the long range plan, no date on completion (Jeff asked)-

Money was not planned in the loan approval?

-No, loan did not include the secured entrance, the cost for addition was higher than expected so funds were not added in

?-Main obstacle for Southwest

-There are a couple of main obstacles-Issues to be solved, some non-negotiables, they have their constituents, many talks on success, hopefully the next few days,

?The current students already there are the issue?

-Yes, that is public information, they had made a commitment to their students,
?Is it a year or two?

-More than that

?Can they split two lines down the middle of the school?

-We are exploring all options, there are some things that we don't want to do, some things that we can't do, there is a delicate balance

Comment-We had made a promise to our parents, the high school is a bonus-Whatever you guys do we appreciate

-There have been a lot of late hours and we're trying our best
Jeff,-Thank you Marvin-If there are anymore ?s please email Marvin

Jeff-Introduction for Jessica McDowell-4th grade teacher and IB program coordinator

-Jessica-We are going through with IB regardless of HS decision- I am a teacher, and an AL parent. 4 programs- Early years, not looking at this time, Middle years program-grade 6-10 or 6-8, we are going through with the application process with one, - Diploma Program-full diploma-more rigorous or certificate Program is dabbling such as AP program- Began in 1968- Geneva Switzerland- Program developed by Educators decided we need a more consistent program for internationally mobile students in Europe started with 11 and 12th graders. 60 programs in the beginning, Success of program lead to 3900 programs around the world- more than 140 countries serving 900,000 student, This is a great fit for AL- Internationally aware students already- When we consider the High School, we want to offer them the most rigorous program possible, most prepared for the world, we are the only school in this area, closest is in Springfield, IB students went to the school, Students spoken to board and will come back this spring to educate parent forum, Immediate changes- teachers have to take 3 trainings, they rewrite their curriculum. How does your subject related to all disciplines, math, art, etc. How do all classes hold hands, Also, how is that curriculum relevant to the real world, All teachers are on board at the middle school, No one at first was thrilled but now they are nothing short of excited-Changing also is emphasis on community service, ex. Her class is reading Raising In The Sun-they are going to go to relate that to the world, How are the students a change agent? How was the area like before the Civil Rights, they will go on a field trip to a pre civil right era Civil Rights Highland cemetery and do research on the lives of the people on the headstones in the Black Archives, bringing the curriculum full circle. To make students "i did something, I made a change today". We will still have math and traditional standards that teachers have to adhere to. .Our community is not that informed yet because of the pushback of the High School, Last year we were heading toward the program because of the upcoming date, but now we have chosen to make the program more solid. This looks really good on college applications. . . Most immediate change is grading scale-
?What does 7 mean

-Toward mastering

?Does the MYP stand alone

-Yes. All four programs stand alone. We want a 6-10. This is what we want. Diploma program is what looks really great on HS diploma

?Do we pay for this?

Yes. Funded through the Capital Campaign. 10,000 for app and the 10,00 per program,
?Will the IB be taught by all teacher

-MYP is all students and Diploma has an application. MYP all teachers. Support classes are art and IB requires a minimum of 50 hours per year. Block scheduling is being considered.

?Do many of the Interns have different requirements.

-Not sure. Different for testing

Heather Royce. Yes testing is different

-Jessica-We can see how our students are doing different from France

?Do the tests cost money

-Yes.

-We are the first French immersion language program for MYP in the US. . .Any other questions

?How will teachers be able to start the program next year? We just adopted grading system 1-4 is this similar?

-It is similar and was thought of to prepare students for IB program. All of the teachers are writing one IB MYP unit they are going to implement it next year. We will write it, assess it and continue to write units after. It won't be total overhaul but it is an overhaul. Everything will be done with IB in mind.

Exit-

Jeff-Introduced Heather Royce

I don't want to steal anyone's thunder. Jessica was so great!

Updates-Kitchen is coming along, outside sparks are flying, it's going on right outside my window, she could offer coffee to construction workers. We are already planning on what is going to happen inside of the building as well, pencil sharpeners and trash cans including. She will be keeping her 2nd graders, not that big of a change to her. She is talking to them and telling them where they are going to be. What is dismissal and lunches going to be like. Cafeteria is not going to hold 450 children at one time. Arrival and dismissal will change. They are just wrapping up application March 5 and 4pm. Very FIRM deadline. ex. NExt morning after application new applicant came in and they had to turn her away. Lottery is March 9th. Letters will go out. Spring break

?Jeff-Will 3rd graders be in the new building?

-Yes

?Does the construction include everything?

-Yes. This time. We don't need anyone from scrape paint or slap paint on the walls but stay tuned for other things

Exit

?Jeff-Introduction-Sarah Guthrie

Everyone is invited to the Give to Grow event tomorrow. Invites are everywhere. They will have children singing and a video, and donors. If you are available we would love to have you

come. Some speakers from the Middle school. We are saying thank you. We have received a 1.5 million check and it's in the bank but she did make a copy of it. Any questions? Were you surprised that IB program paid for by this?

?Will there be another one?

-Not involved in those communications.

?Marvin-Whatever we decide works. Another school like Lincoln prep is on top of the list for everyone in the city? We may have to come back and ask parents to contribute.

-For new parents we have started an annual campaign. AL receive 25 % less than other schools, we have to contract work out like mowing the lawn ex. Heather wants grass if you haven't heard,. To fill the gap for providing special services we have to do fundraising. ex. We have a nurse. 36% of charter schools do not have a nurse, WE DO! We have made choices like that. Parents do have that opportunity to choose. It's so exciting to see this screen! Tomorrow we hope that you can join us. Video is in the email box.

Exit

Jeff-Fundraising in general- then PTSSO structure-then we will talk about next meeting for budget elections. Then a giveaway. About fundraising in general. we have kicked around some ideas to make it better and less effort and how to we raise money from outside of the community without having to ask from parents so much. Becky is going to talk about that process Introduction

Becky- Background is pure and simple. We need money for things that aren't covered by the state. There has been some discussion about fundraising fatigue. We need to get feedback on how we can make this better.

Are we all tired of selling stuff. We have heard consistently.

Please see Power point

Some things that work and some things that don't. Effort is taxing. ex. Chipotle if you're willing to stand in line. Mother and Son dance. These are pretty easy.

Please see power point-If you are interesting in participating-Please email in the new process for updating this process

Jeff-If you guys want to be apart of that discussion then please let us know.

?It would also help spread the word. We don't know how to get involved with the 6th graders

-Jeff-In the past people did a great job but we've never had a real system which we'll trying to create

?For the 6th grade trip we are fundraising only for the extra costs not the actual trips and as class sizes it's going to get hairy

Jeff- Thats a great point, For the budget meeting, how much is costs, what they are expected to do, next time we are going to discuss that in May

?As an old, old mom (laughter) it is appreciated that efforts are being made to streamline it. We need to think about that in the years to come if they have a bad year do they not get to go?, Maybe start earlier, it gives a frenzy feeling with what you have been tasked to raised, scary thing for 5th grade parents, but we can all work together to make it happen.

Jeff-We are always looking for help.

Jeff-Introduction for Tax Status

Please include handout on pros and cons

-In years past it was a fundraising and party group and went on for 10-12 years. History of change, they started process of starting independent 501(c)3 Status as an independent non-profit

Questions about what this is and how it will relate to how the school runs the non for profit.

More information needed to have a clear understanding of where we are and why it will benefit the PTSO to have this status

Unknown content had to leave.