Janney PTA Exec Board Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2020

Attendees

Jaqcuelyn Buckley, Danielle Burwell – Co-Presidents
Elizabeth Callanan Mitchell, Audrey Cooling – Co-Vice Presidents
Jenna Browning, David Van Leeuwen, Katie Wilson – Co-Treasurers
Amy Andrus, Suzanne Smalley – Co-Secretaries
Tara Cooksey, Heather Turekian, Ginny Warren – Past Presidents
Robin Spence, Mellissa Modico – Teachers
Alysia Lutz – Principal

Approval of January Minutes

Amazon Affiliate Program Update

Betsy Good shared details of how the affiliate program works and how dramatically it can boost fundraising. She said if more parents remembered to use the amazon.janneyschool.org URL when ordering from Amazon all the time (as opposed to just when ordering school supplies) the PTA could make a great deal more money. Last year the PTA made $7,500 off of this program, a number which could grow a great deal if people begin using the affiliate URL instead of Smile. (The PTA gets between 6 and 8 percent of what is spent on Affiliate while Smile only raises 0.5 percent for charity. The PTA will move this link higher in the weekly newsletter.

Auction Update

The auction flash sale has been successful with 175 tickets sold. We are slightly behind last year's pace, but on track to have a very successful auction. We do still need more sponsorships. Executive board members are asking friends about houses that can be donated and other connections they may have.

The parties, which always sell really well, have some turnover this year as many hosts have graduated. New hosts are being recruited so this reliable source of revenue and fun doesn't diminish. Heather noted that she had trouble buying auction tickets on the web site so perhaps that is something to check.

Alcohol will be provided by Frank and potentially a Janney parent who is a distributor.

The building use agreement for the auction weekend needs to be completed this week - it provides permission for parent volunteers to access the school during the weekend of the auction for prep.

Principal Update

Budget numbers are out and will be announced before the February break - overall funding is up. Details will be discussed at LSAT.

There is a Janney community meeting February 5th from 6-6:45 pm, which will cover cybersecurity, among other important topics

There will be another day to get fingerprinted at Janney soon

Field use update: It is now managed by DCPS and only can be reserved through DPR. Reservations have to be made for use of the Janney field before 6 pm. DPR has a short window for sign up so at this point it is too late to book through DPR. Anyone who chooses to book the Janney field through DPR will begin showing up as of March 13th. Janney gym and basketball courts are still managed by Janney, but will transition to the same DPR management model next year.

VP Update
Audrey reported the auction is continuing to build sponsorship listings and volunteer ranks are growing

Elizabeth provided an update on the W3EdNet Meeting. Mary Cheh voted to keep open the Washington Met, but the vote to close the school nonetheless passed the council.

Elizabeth noted the erroneous CAP report remains a problem because many people do not realize it was wrong even though Janney has corrected the record several times. Elizabeth is working closely with Melody Marinov to ensure the response to the Grosso bill is appropriate and measured. Cross-ward advocacy and testimony from schools in all wards is expected. The message planned is that funding for all public schools in DC is not where it needs to be. A hearing planned for March 10 will be important and Janney is looking for parents to testify. LSAT and PTA leadership are meeting to discuss the issue and draft language..

On Feb. 10 Deputy Chancellor Amy Maisterra will appear at the Tenley Library at 7 pm to discuss the budget and answer questions. It would be great for LSAT parents to attend.

Past Presidents/LSAT Update
LSAT meeting was about how the PTA budget supplements the Janney budget.

Principal Lutz's budget is due 2/13

Treasurer's Update
Dave van Leeuwen said that SSF donations in January totaled $3800 raised. The PTA is about $60k behind last year's totals for SSF donations at this point. We also have not yet hit the 50 percent mark for participation rate (we remain at 49 percent participation). The used book sale, bingo night, and the Fun Run/5K all did very well and made more money than expected.