

Principal announcements and updates- Mr. Wood

Please also see attached notes from Mr. Wood.

1. The district will soon be doing the **Successful Schools Survey**. Our goal is to have at least 60% of families responding, but we would really like to have much closer to a 100% response rate. Also 5th and 7th graders will be asked to respond, with paper copies sent home so that families can discuss them, and students later doing on-line surveys in school. Both parents in a family can respond, but parents with more than one child only respond once for all children.

2. **Enrollment/Growth/Co-location Update.** There is no final decision from PPS yet but Mr. Wood expects to know more by the end of the month. An additional meeting of district administration on Friday will specifically address ACCESS/Beverly Cleary co-location. ACCESS will almost definitely be here at RCP next year. It is also most likely that Beverly Cleary will remain here, and that ACCESS will regain one classroom from B.C. ACCESS may or may not get the 2 additional classrooms that we need to grow by dividing the 2 large rooms into 4. We will be seeking 40/45- 90 new students, depending on whether we are allowed to grow or if we are just replacing graduating 8th grade students and students lost to attrition. We will definitely be trying to diversify the student population so that underrepresented schools and demographic groups will be better represented. The question of sibling preference will be up to ACCESS to decide, and will not be decided by the board. At the January/February site council meetings Mr. Wood expects that the site council will make a recommendation about our sibling preference policy, and he will then take it to Carl Logan to approve. A parent asked about the issue of having separate 1st and 2nd grade classrooms, which would make sibling preference less of a concern because those are the grades where slots are often taken by siblings. The PTA did send a letter to the school board supporting the growth of ACCESS, which was heard. A parent asked if the PTA/parents needed to contact the school board supporting paying to divide the large classrooms so that we could continue with the growth plan, and Mr. Wood felt that it would be acceptable for parents to contact the board supporting that.

3. **Admission/recruiting.** We will likely have more focused presentations to prospective families this year, with 2 daytime sessions and 2 evening sessions, one at each time for lower grades and for middle school. The presentation last year was very large, so we will try to make them more manageable this year. There may be an attempt at personal outreach this year, but that is a little more difficult. The PTA will likely send a letter along with the district

letter saying that a child qualifies for ACCESS offering to communicate with interested families about ACCESS. Mr. Wood is going to different schools to talk to TAG coordinators and counselors over the next 2 months. There was discussion about the best time to start evening parent information nights, and it was decided that 6:30-7:30 would be best. Times will be Thursday 2/11 from 6:30-7:30pm (Elementary Focus), Friday 2/27 9-10 am (Middle School Focus), Thursday March 5 6:30-7:30pm (M.S. focus), and Monday March 16 9-10am (Elementary Focus).

4. **SBAC (Smarter Balanced)** testing is coming up March-May 2015. The test can be taken online if parents want to try it out and become acquainted with the test. Students will take practice tests in school before taking the official test. Instructions on accessing the test are included in the handout from Mr. Wood.

5. Dana Ticker has many good **after school enrichment** classes available. Parents have asked for an athletic opportunity and that should happen either this spring or in the fall. Judy Berck asked about organizing a futsal team that could walk to the futsal facility in the neighborhood, and she will look into that. Another parent mentioned a group called Girls On the Run that involves a girl's running group with adult mentors, and the end goal of participating in the starlight run; and this might be another option.

Portland Eco-Schools Network-Erica DeJong.

Erica from the PESN presented on their organization, which brings parents together from different involved schools to share resources and inspiration, etc. Parents in the Portland network have done a variety of great projects. There will be a kick-off meeting January 28, and sustainable leadership training starts in February. Erica sent around a flier with information. Their office is downtown and the meetings are there.

Treasurer's Report-Abbie Rankin

Abbie presented the budget notes since last month: a little over \$1,000 was donated to GIVE. Over \$450 was raised at the Barnes and Noble Book Fair. The check scanning fee was waived thanks to a parent contact at the bank. Scrip is close to meeting the fund-raising goal for the year already. There are no new big expenses. Heather Kent brought up some new requests for funds: Mr Weisner submitted a request for funds for the Oregon Trail Overnight. This is for 4th and 5th graders, costs \$105 per student, and they are hoping to get it down to \$75 per student (no cost to students who qualify for free and reduced lunch). They are requesting \$900 from the PTA. Mr. Diltz just had \$1,500 worth of books donated from A Children's Place,

which is moving to a smaller space, and he isn't currently requesting new funds for the library. Mr. Diltz is requesting \$300 for 2 microphones to go with the ipads to improve the sound quality of student's projects in technology classes. He would also like to make a proposal about specific technology investments, and Mr. Wood plans to form a committee to do this, likely in March or April. The 3rd grade classroom is requesting \$500 additional for their garden program (which they have spent \$500 on already). There is a request for funds for an 8th grade graduation trip, but this is not specific yet. JaneAnne may need to request funds to tune the piano (which is about \$130). All three specific requests were approved unanimously (4/5 trip, 3rd grade garden project, and microphones).

Site Council report- Kelly Cutler. The site council is looking at both the short term and long term plans. This includes high school, location, growth, etc. Mr. Wood again mentioned that the Site Council will be addressing the sibling preference policy at the next meeting. A parent asked if the sibling policy will change from year to year, or if this will be a long term decision that can be revisited in the future if needed. Mr. Wood said that the Site Council should make a decision both about the substance of the policy and also about a method for revising it. The next Site Council Meeting is January 23 at 3:15.

TAGAC on Feb 3rd will have an opportunity for giving feedback to the board about improving TAG services district-wide, including with respect to ACCESS. 2 ACCESS parents are on TAGAC and will propose that ACCESS be allowed to expand to admit all qualified students (this is a TAGAC recommendation, not an ACCESS recommendation). It was asked if that would be a venue in which support of splitting the large classrooms to allow for growth should be brought up, and it was agreed that it would be a good idea to send a letter and also present to the board at the meeting. A motion was made that the PTA should send a letter and a representative to the meeting about splitting the rooms if necessary to maintain the growth plan, and it passed.

Old Business. Minutes from the last PTA meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

New Business

Auction: Kristi Byfield (auction chair) discussed that 2 years ago the PTA had a raffle at the auction for a specific item with the money going to the PTA. Kristi wonders if the PTA wants to do that this year, or possibly run a photo booth at the auction with proceeds going to the PTA. A parent asked if members thought the PTA should be trying to raise money at the auction for the PTA, or if it might detract from money going to the foundation. Mr. Wood suggested that if the PTA did do that it might want to be targeted to a specific item such as technology. It was asked which teachers are funded by the foundation. The foundation pays

for the Math Specialist (0.4 time) and also allows us to have a full time counselor, technology teacher, and art teacher (partly paid for by the foundation to supplement the schools' budget). It was decided that we would wait to see if there is a specific request for an item (such as a technology item) and that if there is we will decide at that point if we should have a dedicated fundraiser at the auction.

Announcements:

Buy tickets for the Atomic Cabaret!

Donate arts and craft supplies for Ms. Egan's drive to collect items for SCRAP (through 1/16)

The first round of auditions for the student talent show is 1/15, with 50 kids auditioning that day and slightly fewer the next day. They will be combining acts so that the talent show isn't 3 hours long. Volunteers are needed for the student talent show, and there will be a specific sign up list.

Social activities: There will be a movie night next month, likely on a Friday. There is a middle school dance scheduled Friday Feb. 13th.

ACCESS Academy Principal's Update

PTA Meeting - January 14, 2015

- 1. Successful Schools Survey (1/20 - 2/28)**

- Goal: 60%+ participation by ACCESS families
- School Climate focus (broadly defined)
- Online and in-print
- Disaggregated data available about experiences in schools

2. Enrollment/Growth/Co-location Update

- No clear decisions from PPS as of 1/14/15; I expect greater clarity by 1/30/15.
- Decisionmakers: Superintendent Carole Smith, with input from:
 - Antonio Lopez (Asst. Superintendent)
 - Sascha Perrins, Senior Director (K-12 school operations)
 - Karl Logan, Senior Director (Grant Cluster)
- Very likely that ACCESS will remain at Rose City Park in 2015-16.
- Likely, though not certain, that some Beverly Cleary grades will remain co-located at RCP in 2015-16.
- ACCESS currently has 305 students; with “full growth plan,” would have 362 students in 2015-16. Would require 3 additional classrooms at RCP for ACCESS. BCS will likely occupy 1 fewer classroom in 2015-16; therefore, ACCESS will need +2 additional classrooms to fulfill full growth plan. PPS Facilities now investigating feasibility of dividing Rms 3, 17. Not currently considering portable classrooms at RCP.
- Even with no growth, ACCESS will recruit for at least 40-45 students for 2015-16 (38 graduating 8th graders + small number of attrition).
- D-BRAC declined to resolve the ACCESS/BCS co-location challenge for 2015-16, stating that it should be part of the larger process of boundary review for implementation in 2016-17. Therefore, District staff above will make a recommendation for 1 more year, 2015-16.
- One likely scenario: Rose City Park reopens as a neighborhood school, probably K-5, in 2016-17. Implications for ACCESS not clear for 2016-17; co-location continues to be possible if opening of RCP is “phased in.”

3. Admission/Recruiting

- We **are** recruiting for **all** grades 1-8 for 2015-16. Number of “slots” TBD (see above)
- We are committed to finding the most diverse, representative group of highly gifted learners ACCESS has ever admitted:
 - For 2015-16, we will ask families to voluntarily identify by ethnicity and free/reduced lunch-status.
 - We will affirmatively reach out to TAG coordinators, teachers, and administrators at all PPS schools, with special efforts at schools with highest populations of FRL-eligible students.
 - We will affirmatively reach out to community organizations and that serve underrepresented students to educate them about ACCESS and invite them to share that information with families they serve.
 - We will prioritize family-to-family outreach for students from under-represented communities.
 - Sibling preference: Sibling priority or preference decision remains with ACCESS for 2015-16; Site Council will make consider and make recommendation to me in January and February meetings.
- Need volunteers to share their experience at information sessions and personal outreach:
 - Information sessions:
 - **Weds. February 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Elementary Focus)**
 - **Fri. February 27, 9-10 a.m. (MS Focus)**
 - **Thu. March 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (MS Focus)**
 - **Mon. March 16, 9-10 a.m. (Elementary Focus)**
 - Personal outreach:
 - Request and survey going out Monday 1/19 seeking ACCESS family volunteers to make 1-on-1 connections with eligible families and applicants, and to share their experiences at ACCESS

4. **Smarter Balanced (SBAC) and OAKS Testing coming up March-May 2015**

- Grades 3-8: SBAC English Language Arts and Math

- ELA now includes writing component
- Computer-adaptive test (like OAKS) **and** “Performance Tasks” (deeper problem-solving, writing, human-assessed)
- Grades 5 & 8 only: OAKS Science
- All students will take practice tests in all tested subjects: ELA, Math, Science (5 & 8)
- Families should check out the Practice Tests available online at www.oaksportal.org (see directions attached).
- Questions? Ask Mr. Wood, dwood2@pps.net or ACCESS’s Test Coordinators, Amy MacKinnon, amackinn@pps.net and Michael Diltz, mdiltz@pps.net.