

Burroughs PTA Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016
6:30-7:30 pm

Officers Present:

Lesley Farmer, President
Jessica Wood, Vice President
Deb Ward, Treasurer
Beth Goodpaster, Secretary

Welcome and Introduction, Lesley Farmer

Review and Approval of Minutes, Beth Goodpaster

Beth read the minutes for the September 27, 2016 meeting, which, with one typographical correction, were approved.

Treasurer Report, Deb Ward

Deb introduced the topic of amending the PTA Bylaws to specifically allow for up to three assistant treasurer positions. The Bylaws already provide for assistant positions for the secretary and president positions.

Deb explained that, given the big learning curve for the treasurer position, more people need to be involved in treasurer duties. She also suggested that we consider shortening the duration of the treasurer term.

A member commented that the treasurer and people serving in treasurer assistant roles should have staggered terms to ensure continuity. Another offered that we could model it after the current vice president and president positions (vice president serves 1-year term and then in second year assumes 1-year term as president).

Former treasurer Dan Conway suggested that the number of people with treasury duties not go as high as 4 people, keeping a lower limit on the number of people with check-writing authority. He also stated that a 2-year term is needed to really get up to speed on all of the treasurer responsibilities. Staggering 2-year terms could work.

Amy Hasbargen raised the issue that to make changes to the PTA Bylaws, a written meeting agenda containing the proposed changes should be published in advance of the PTA meeting, ensuring notice to all members. Because changes to the treasurer portions of the Bylaws were not published in advance of the November 15 meeting, a vote would not be appropriate yet. Because the current Bylaws do not *prohibit* formalizing assistance to the treasurer, however, the PTA could offer and pass a motion to provide this support without necessitating a change to the Bylaws.

Lonnie Hulseley offered a motion to allow the treasurer to supervise assistants to carry out the duties of the position. The motion was seconded and approved.

Deb also discussed the need for help completing the audit and the form 990. She and Lesley have met with Ashley Miller, a CPA who is willing and able to assist with both of these tasks, for a \$550 fee.

Lonnie offered a motion to approve \$550 to retain Ashley Miller to assist with the 990 form and audit work.

Review of the Bylaws in general, and specifically with respect to treasury officer positions, will be addressed at a future meeting.

Read-A-Thon Update, Melissa Albert

The first meeting of the Read-A-Thon committee (and subcommittees) was held November 14. There is an urgent need for a parent volunteer to create and direct the annual Read-A-Thon skit that 5th graders perform at Opening and Closing ceremonies. Three volunteers are available so far to assist, but a director is needed.

Lonnie Hulseley suggested that Melissa write up the request for parent volunteers, and offered that the 5th grade teachers could communicate the message to the parents of each 5th grade class. Melissa agreed.

Spiritwear, Lesley Farmer

Lesley gave the Spiritwear update because Linda McConley was unable to attend the meeting. Burroughs has raised \$3,439 through Spiritwear sales so far; this is more than the total sales for the entire 2015-2016 year. Linda has plenty of stock on hand for people to make holiday gift orders.

Positive Schoolwide Engagement Team, Jen Aspengren

Stemming from huge parent response to Jen's Burroughs Parents Facebook post about making efforts to address kids' post-election worries about safety, a small group of parents and staff will be meeting to discuss proactive ways the Burroughs community can ensure that it is safe, loving and inclusive of all. The next step following this smaller meeting will be a larger meeting that will be open to the entire Burroughs community for discussion, and to begin acting on what is decided.

Fall for Burroughs Auction

The auction was a success! Over 380 people attended the fundraiser, and it net about \$63,000 for the Burroughs Fund. The Fund-A-Need goal was met! Now there will be Chrome Books and a Chrome Books lab available for Burroughs students! More details of the event financials are in progress and will be reported soon. A co-chair is needed for next year's auction.

Presentation on Mindfulness, Jen Feriancek

Jen is a former K-6 teacher; her son Matthew Feriancek attended Burroughs and now is in 7th grade at Ramsey. Mindful Schools is a nonprofit organization that provides training to educators about how to integrate mindfulness with the elementary school classroom. Jen has received this training, and now wants to offer mindfulness curriculum to Burroughs teachers and students. Jen explained that mindfulness alleviates stress, enhances focus and attention, and emphasizes care and kindness (to oneself and to others). Jen showed a video presentation about the work of Mindful Schools, and demonstrated classroom techniques.

PTA members were enthusiastic about bringing mindfulness curriculum to Burroughs kids. Principal Bartl stated that she shares that parent interest, and although the next steps are not decided, she will keep the conversation going about how to bring mindfulness curriculum to the students at Burroughs.

State of the School, Principal Ana Bartl

Ana announced that the Ballot Referendum to renew funding for Minneapolis public schools passed! This means that Burroughs can maintain current levels of staffing, class sizes and our other important student resources.

Ana thanked parent volunteers for helping out with the Districts “Visit Our Schools” campaign, helping to lead tours of the school to parents considering Burroughs for their children.

Ana also thanked and congratulated the kids and parents on the beautiful results of the Burroughs landscape fall cleanup. Ana wants to involve students in a sustained effort to make the Burroughs campus beautiful.

The Fall for Burroughs Auction was a success! In particular, artwork for each grade that Mr. Pilon created with students was a big hit! An effort is in the beginning stages to make other versions of the drawings (cards, prints, etc.) to raise money for glass art displays for student artwork.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30