

**Burroughs PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15, 2019 6:30-8:00**

Officers Present:

Catherine Lipinsky, President

Britt Waterman, Vice President

Steve Connelly, Treasurer

Eric Larson, Co-Treasurer

Jennie Hartman, Volunteer Coordinator

Madeline Lohman, Secretary

**Read-a-Thon Update**

Jen Thorp presented an update on Read-a-Thon, which starts in February. Everything is going smoothly – the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are auditioning for the skit, and we have great graphics, prizes, and guest readers. Now we are moving from planning to implementation and need volunteers for things that need a lot of helpers: tally night, creating packets, and packing prize bags, for instance. Jennie will talk more about this in the volunteer update.

**Minutes from November meeting approved**

**Discussion guidelines**

In order to keep PTA meetings on track, the President or other member of the Executive Committee will monitor how long discussions are taking. Long discussions with unresolved questions mean the issue in question probably needs more thought and input from the rest of the Burroughs community and this policy will allow that to happen.

If a discussion goes on for a while (5-7 min) and does not seem to be resolving, the current speaker will open up the “Comment Board” - a sticky chart on the wall. Then meeting participants can offer their remaining comments or questions for the Comment Board, trying not to repeat any that have already been said and focusing on new information rather than responses to previous comments. The PTA Executive Committee commits to finding the answers to as many of the questions and comments as possible and reporting the results back at the next PTA meeting. If possible, the PTA Executive Committee will also take the opportunity to gather more input from people not at the meeting.

If the policy or funding request is urgent, the PTA may still vote based on the information they have in that meeting. If the request is denied, it will be considered postponed and revisited at the next meeting.

PTA members thought this sounded like a good plan to test out and see how it works.

**State of the School – Ana Bartl**

Ana has no information on the school’s budget for next year at this point but the MPS principals are meeting soon and she should know more then. She is soliciting input into parent priorities through a

family survey that went out on e-blast. One parent requested that she put it on the Burroughs website and she will do so.

Burroughs has also started a strategic planning committee that will be looking at the themes from the family, staff, and student visioning sessions conducted last spring and fall. The application for that also went out on e-blast. The deadline for the application is the end of January and the first meeting will be in February. The committee will have around 30 people including staff.

The PTA funded glass art display cases but the installation has been delayed by a faulty panel. They are working on getting them fixed and installed.

If anyone is interested, Ana is seeking a volunteer to organize curricular materials. It should take a few hours.

A PTA member requested that coffee with the principal not always be on Friday morning and Ana has been considering adjusting the schedule for the remaining sessions this year so will see what other times might work.

### **Treasurer Update**

The PTA is doing well and is on track. Our fundraising has exceeded our budgeted expectations in a few categories and is on track in others. Spirit wear is currently at a negative balance because it is tied up in inventory but that should change as sales continue. Corporate programs including corporate matches, Box Tops, Dining for Dollars and more are also above budget or on track after Steve made a lot of deposits in January.

For the silent auction, the funds go to Achieve and to the fund-a-need. The total is \$65,000, of which \$12,500 was fund-a-need, so we expect to make a deposit of \$52,500. Right now, that would use up all of our silent auction proceeds, but we expect more money to come in through the rest of the year because of Great Gatherings.

Current spending is way under because many reimbursement requests come in at the end of the school year and we haven't paid for Singapore Math yet.

For our discretionary budget, the PTA has only paid out \$1073.89 at this point, but in the last meeting, we approved \$8220 more. We also anticipate a request from Families for Equity and Justice and for extra buses for the Art Adventure tours, leaving us with \$2106.11 for the remainder of the year.

### **Families for Equity and Justice**

FEJ used money that was held over from last year for an event called "How to Talk with Your Kids about Race" facilitated by Marcarre Traynham. Around 50 families attended, though no teachers, so FEJ will be trying to involve more teachers. 75% of attendees were extremely satisfied with the event and 91% wanted to bring Marcarre back for another event.

FEJ wants to arrange a series but be flexible knowing that families may not be able to attend all of them. They surveyed attendees at the event and people wanted events (in order of preference) on:

- Bullying/building empathy
- Racial equity
- Differences in physical and cognitive ability
- Gender equity
- Other

They are proposing two additional events in March and April in response to the survey. The first will cover racial equity, bringing back Marcarre, and the second will address bullying and building empathy, though they have not found a facilitator for that event yet. The total request is for \$2400 for the two events to cover the facilitator's fee, food, and child care.

Parents raised a few concerns. Some felt that the list of surveyed topics left out important issues like educational equity and financial accessibility. Others worried about an exclusive or dominant focus on racial equity left out other areas of inequality or exclusion. Jen and Rich said that the discussions were centered on racial equity but also included talking about everyone who was not included at Burroughs. They also welcomed input into the topic for the second event and would be happy to connect with interested parents outside the meeting. They will set up a time to meet that will be forwarded to PTA members as well as the Burroughs community as a whole.

Another concern was that this was a large request and the discretionary budget did not have much money left over. Would there be enough to cover an urgent request by teachers for a classroom or academic need? Steve updated the discretionary budget, since FEJ's request was smaller than they originally proposed. He projected that the PTA now had \$3306.11 left for the rest of the year. Typically, the large requests that come in at the end of the year are for professional development and the PTA now has fund-a-need money to cover that. Otherwise, we have not typically seen requests for thousands of dollars late in the year. He stated that the PTA would also probably not spend all the money budgeted in other areas. Even if the FEJ request was approved, there would definitely be enough money to meet all other requests this year.

The request for two events was approved.

### **Dining for Dollars**

We have several upcoming events!

- Café Zupas on Mar. 5
- Vertical Endeavors on Mar. 14
- Pizza Luce on Mar. 18

Also working on Tap Society, Malt Shop, My Burger and Papa Murphy's.

Lara is also organizing a community reading event for read-a-thon on Saturday February 9 from 1-3 pm. It will include a book swap in the lunchroom, a bookmark making station and plenty of read-aloud and independent reading.

### **Volunteer Update**

We need a lot of read-a-thon volunteers to make the month go smoothly, we've already had a lot of sign ups so please join us! Talk to Jennie for details.

We also need volunteers for the K, 1, 3, and 5 grade vision screens.

The PTA traditionally hosts a lunch for the teachers during winter conferences. We will be putting out a call for food in the Bulletin.

The Twins game with Lyndale or Green Central will be on Saturday May 11 in the afternoon.