

Clarke PTO Meeting Notes
June 5, 2014

Present: Suzanne Bruno, Kathleen Lenihan, Kristin LaFond, Polly Kienle, Paige Sabine, Sue Wilner, Leslie Forg, Diane Abe, Anna Monaco, Alex Xia, Xiapong Gong, Edward Davey, Alison Arshad, Parwana Nalda, Kiruthika Ramakrishnan

Anna Monaco's Report

1. Ed Davies – Capital Expenditure for technology

- Mr. Davies is the part-time 8th grade teacher and part-time instructional technology assistant
- The PTA distributes \$2500 to Clarke which is to be used for a capital expenditure. Last year, it was used to buy a 3D printer.
- Mr. Davies & Ms. Monaco have discussed using the money this year to purchase a new technology program called Insight 360.
- This program would be an upgrade from the response system clickers that were donated by LEF 7 years ago
- Insight 360 is a system for formative instruction and assessment. It is a software product that allows teachers to interactively teach and assess. There will be more options for students to respond to questions and the teachers can use their iPads to work the system. Right now, there is a cart of iPads for each team at Clark next year so there would be plenty of iPads to use for the program. The thought is to use the Insight 360 program in the 8th grade and to use it in a way that allows all students to benefit. For example, all of the 8th grade history teachers would use the program, so all 8th grade students would have a chance to try it.
- The technology could be bought and used as soon as next year. Mr. Davies would train the teachers over the Summer.
- The PTA voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$2500 to purchase the Insight 360 program.

2. Mr. Pelkey requested \$350 for ice cream for the 6th grade field day. The PTA unanimously approved this expenditure.

3. Project Adventure

- Ms. Monaco met with the PE Teachers and Project Adventure will go forward next year. The 6th grade field day will be on September 16th and The 7th and 8th grade field day will be on September 17th.
- The 7th & 8th grade will likely be funded by a \$10,000 school community grant from LEF – we are still waiting for final approval.
- The Clarke PTA will fund the 6th grade project adventure which will cost \$11,000
- Ms. Monaco said that the hope is that, in the future, the 8th grade Team Adventure could be at the end of the year as a community building exercise before the students go to the high school.

Clarke Site Council

The Site Council needs some new members – there are three vacancies for next year. The Council meets once a month from 3:15-4:15. There will be an election if there are more than three candidates for the position. The school committee liaisons are putting together monthly meetings for site council members to discuss district-wide issues.

Treasurer's Report

- Beth asked that all reimbursement requests be submitted by June 30th
- Our new Treasurer, Kiruthika, will be able to start paying bills on August 1st
- Clarke spirit wear exceeded project revenue
- The Stop & Shop A+ program raised \$1100
- The PTA's net assets were \$54K. The goal is to spend this income down to \$40K

Elections

- Alison Arshad was nominated as Co-President. Alison volunteered at Bowman school and will have two children at Clarke next year in 6th & 8th grade
- Karuthika Ramakrishnan was nominated as Treasurer. Karuthika has been involved in her son's school for seven years and is a former Bridge parent. Karuthika has an accounting background and currently works for a Bank
- Xiapeng Gong was nominated as VP of Volunteers. Xiapeng has a daughter at LHS and a son entering Clarke. He has served as a team parent at Clarke.
- Lori Benjes was nominated as VP of Community.

PPC/PTO Report

- The Town meeting will be held on June 15th. The plan is to allocate \$250k to deal with space needs at the school. The money will be used to fund a consultant to look at the issue.
- Discussion has been held about returning World Languages to the elementary school levels. It will take at least three years to get the plan in place and will cost \$1 million.
- The Superintendent search has begun. The town has hired a consultant to assist with the search and design the search process. Dr. Ash is not leaving until June of 2015.
- The Estabrook school gym will be used as a community space.