PTA Board Meeting – March 11, 2020

Meeting convened at 6:08.

Attendees: Charrise, Neeraj, Norah, Carol, Ben, Tara, Genevieve, Margaux, Courtney, Claire, Kiana, Chloe

Genevieve addressed tragedy of Kindergartener who passed away. The PTA Board wanted to do something to honor them. The family may be in need of financial resources. We were waiting to hear from the family first.

Treasurer’s Report – Neeraj

Neeraj informed the Board that there wasn’t a big change from February. February was an uneventful month.

Gala – Claire

Claire presented to the Board about the status of the Gala. Due to COVID-19 major restructuring had to take place. Claire said the auction was up and that we owed 75% of the bill. We would be able to recoup funds from the DJ. Some of the auction gifts would help. Cash sponsors covered some expenses. We stand to lose about 16K.

Claire and Tara were going to have a conversation with the restaurants about their role in the Gala and if they would still be interested in being a vendor with the new outside space or not.

Some big concerns were parents and sponsors. There is a possibility that parents want a reimbursement. Since there isn’t a live auction, parents may not bid as much. It was decided we would ask parents if they would like a refund. In order to satisfy our sponsors, we will give them recognition in Tues News. The sponsor banner will be visibly displayed at the front entrance.

There was an interest in having a virtual gala.

For the outside replacement of the indoor Gala, we would set baskets and art up around X park. The food would be set up there as well. The time would be moved to 4pm.

Claire encouraged everyone to keep bidding.

Budget – Neeraj

Neeraj said he had a decent idea of where things will end up and the core numbers with discretionary and nondiscretionary.

There was a suggestion to add a Community Engagement bucket to the budget. This can include the game nights and fall festival. We can bring all the leaders together to discuss. The reason for this is to institute more relationship building. Kiana said people need to feel more connected.

Tara said we hit our numbers in February, there isn’t a need to keep fundraising. We can then reframe what the Gala is.
Ben suggested asking for money at the end of the year as opposed to the beginning once relationships have been established. Parents will feel more vested at that point.

The Welcome picnic will be free for the upcoming school year. The current coordinators are leaving.

Genevieve said there should be a clear distinction between community events and fundraisers.

Norah said we should examine our budget model more carefully. Look at 2 things:

- Lack of spending may be the answer, let things roil over by being spending conscious
- Don’t set unrealistic fundraising goals

Genevieve reported that Game Night was a success. Carol said we should make friends with the new Commander of American Legion. We want to be inclusive and possibly having an end of year gathering there.

Tara said we should plan out the community events.

**Nominating Process**

Margaux announced the nominating process has begun for the PTA Board. Genevieve said the positions that were open. She also felt we should revisit having a Fundraising Chair. There was also discussion of finding more leaders for listening sessions.

**Green Team and Denise and ECE team**

After the break, ECE will help with composting. Clean up Day is to be at the end of March. Recycling efforts will continue.

**Listening Sessions**

A major issue that derived from the listening sessions was the idea of parents feeling disconnected from Brent. Relationship building is a priority. One way to begin this is to call new parents in the summer. We can make the Brent Buddy process easier. We do not want any lag time like before.

Play dates should be expanded according to Norah. We can use school playground.

**Reflection on Changes and New Approaches Moving Forward**

A community meeting on discipline and philosophies should occur at the beginning of the school year. Parents are happy with 6pm time change from last year’s 6:30 time. This hasn’t changed numbers Norah said. Margaux inquired about this. Norah said the in school calendaring will occur in March as opposed to May.

The Enrollment Packet should have a welcome and mini handbook with all the ways to communicate at Brent.

We should have volunteers to help Denise with Tues News. There should be an editorial team to help with photography and general layout.

Margaux asked if there will be a year book this year and Norah said yes.
Kiana suggested for asking for volunteers is to put number of volunteers needed for various events. Courtney said to reach out to parent’s personal email for volunteer opportunities.

**Principal Update - SIT**

Ben said to wait for budget to come out then react. There will be a meeting with Mayor Bowser March 12, 2020. In order to get the 7-10 million in this year’s budget to move the modernization along, we have to get the District to agree.

Swing Space was a good move since Brent is not on the top of the list for modernization. We can begin advocating for Tyler. We can join another school for swing space.

The Principal’s Coffee discussed moving forward with modernization and how parents were reacting to that.

March Community Meeting will be virtual.

Norah discussed what distant learning looks like.

Minutes approved. Kiana made motion. Ben seconded, pending change of no PTA Board meeting for June.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

**Action Item**

- Next meeting we can discuss how to support the family of the kindergartener who passed away.
- Email sent out informing parents of Gala changes.

**Discussion with leaders of groups/fundraisers – Friday morning**

- What we can’t do without
- What we are doing
- Here is where we are