

Oxford PTA Meeting Minutes September 17, 2014

- I.- Meeting called to order, approximately 25 people in attendance including Principal Beth Rhine, PTA President Sabrina Leunig, PTA Treasurer Zoe Scheffy, PTA Secretary Amy Feldman.
- II.- Jezra Thompson, BUSD Gardening and Cooking Program Director, introduced changes to the elementary gardening program (district-wide) including alignment with English/Language Arts and Next Generation Science standards. A call was made for volunteers to support ongoing garden maintenance and grant-writing to cover the cost of new gardening tools.
- III.- Zoe distributed and reviewed the current budget, highlighting the following:
 - *each year, the PTA raises money throughout the year and provides a check to BUSD in July to cover the salaries we are paying for
 - *as expected, the PTA needed to use \$9,000 from savings to cover costs last year (dipping into savings for up to \$25,000 had been approved, but fundraising totals exceeded expectations)
 - *the current budget includes a projected upward trend in fundraising with a total goal of bringing in \$140,000
 - *the \$140,000 figure was broken down to show that we need to raise \$467 per student
 - *if we are unable to meet the current budget without dipping into savings, we will need to revise next year's budget accordingly
- IV.- Motion to approve the budget, Second, Approved
- V.- Patty Cates, on the board of the Berkeley Public Schools Fund explained what the Fund supports (\$250,000/year to support teacher grants, coordinating volunteers in schools, SF Symphony assemblies) and described their primary fundraisers (half marathon in November, formal luncheon in the spring)
- VI.- Sabrina went through an overview of fundraising, community building and parent education events scheduled for the 2014-15 school year. All event coordinators who were present were introduced, briefly described their events. Calls for volunteers to support specific events were made.
 - *the immediate need for volunteers to support 10/8 Walk n Roll to School Day and 10/19 Harvest Fair/Book Fair was emphasized
 - *moving the Auction to late February or early March and holding the Spring Dance and Raffle in May was discussed reflecting a general consensus that the events were too close together last year

VI.- Sabrina provided an overview of non-event, ongoing fundraising activities and made a call for volunteers. Coordinators of the various programs who were present briefly described the programs they support.

*in addition to volunteers to support the existing programs (Scrip, grant-writing, cash-back/Target Red Cards, box tops, ink cartridges) designating a volunteer to coordinate fundraisers with local business (Mrs. Dalloway's, Crepevine, etc.) was suggested

VII.- A question was raised about communication and e-Tree sign-ups and the new Pencil Network were described. There seemed to be some agreement that continued discussion of how to best reach the most families is still needed.

VIII.- Motion to approve May meeting minutes as distributed, Second, Approved

Meeting adjourned