

GW Childs Home and School Association

Meeting Notes for 11/16/2023

Number of Attendees: ~10

Agenda:

1. Anthony made several announcements about HSA/NICE Budget, soliciting ideas for fundraising
2. There will be yard cleanup on Sunday from 11-2pm. Anthony is in charge.
 - a. Request Mr. Laurie to send out a Dojo notice to let families know we could use help.
3. More discussion of PR/School promotion.
 - a. Jordan to check in with Jen Devor about window signs.
 - b. Erica Johnson is trying to organize open houses in the winter/spring. Idea was to do it on Thursday mornings. The district hosts an open house in March. Mr. Laurie believes there could be interest in doing this starting in January and February.
 - c. Anthony can email the HSA to ask people to reach out to Erica to volunteer.
 - d. Once dates are set, we can ask Jen Devor to create a flyer and then ask our interpreters to translate it.
4. How do we want to raise money this year?
 - a. Our interpreter Ms. Mung had the idea to sell flowers for mothers' day as a fundraiser.
 - b. Krispy Kreme donut sales: Ms. Kyser says this raises about \$300 each year. We just need someone to pick up the donuts.
 - c. Betty Hayes suggested a raffle but Ms. Kyser thinks there may be a district policy against this as it could be considered gambling. Anthony can discuss this with the district HSA rep when they speak.
 - d. Orlethia suggested a kids art auction.
 - e. Lydia- NICE raised about \$3K getting local businesses to donate items and then having an online auction/raffle. Anthony will check with the HSA rep about whether we can do this as a district HSA.
5. Spending Requests:
 - a. Thanksgiving- we are now doing gift cards which will be funded by HSA. Lydia will write a check (in coordination with Mr. Laurie) to determine who the check will go to.
 - i. Unanimous approval from the board to pay for this and all members.
 - b. Library- Lydia asked for \$42 to buy 7 copies of a book for a reading circle program.
 - i. Everyone approves.
6. New Trees are being planted around the school on Saturday. Jen Vincent and her husband are building planters and soliciting volunteers to regularly water the trees. Contact Jen Vincent to volunteer.
7. Before-care Program: Mr. Laurie talked to the aftercare program (United Communities) to let them know there is interest and they are looking into it.
8. Updates from Mr. Laurie:
 - a. Southwark school hosting has been going well. No complaints so far. Plan is for Southwark to return after Thanksgiving.

- b. Out school is inspected every 3 years for asbestos and there is ongoing abatement in response to those inspections. Certain pieces of infrastructure can be covered, wrapped, replaced, etc. to prevent unhealthy exposures.
 - c. Outside the school there are concrete improvements happening. (Note: these are literal improvements to the concrete sidewalks/curbs).
- 9. Additional discussion about kids being rushed through lunch and not having sufficient time to eat.
 - a. Lunch time is only 20 minutes from start to finish.
 - b. It is very rushed especially with the addition of Southwark students
 - c. Students must enter an ID number to get their lunch so that the district can keep track of which students are eating and how much food they need to order looking forward.
 - d. Volunteers could help.
 - e. Serving of the food could be improved with more staff. We would get more staff if we had more students.
- 10. Mr. Laurie would love to have a front lobby volunteer to welcome people into the school who could say hello and guide people to where they need to go. Typically starts around noon through the end of the day.
- 11. Orlethia suggests that HSA members check out "Nice White Parents" podcast about the disconnect between black/brown/white families and involvements in the school. She wants to recruit more black and brown parents to the HSA and wants to make sure that people do feel welcome when they come. People want to feel that if they make an effort to get involved that their voices will be heard.
- 12. Next steps for volunteer opportunities:
 - a. Have Anthony email out the list of volunteer activities and who to contact about them.
 - b. Mr. Laurie to post that list to Dojo and print out the list for the office.
- 13. At October's meeting we discussed having the district "FACE" officer (Mr. Lukman?) attend to describe the necessary steps for volunteering at the school. This did not occur at the November meeting but we should discuss scheduling this in the future.