

Friends of Hawthorne Meeting - minutes

3/9/21 6pm – 7:30pm via Google Meet

Attendees: Dana Math & Percy Allen– President; Casey Gregory – co-vice-president, Ara Erickson & Josie Clark – co-Treasurers; Corin Lianides - Secretary, Peter Schumacher– member-at-large. Plus 12 community members.

Percy kicked the meeting off. Asked that we do a quick round of intros for the call, as it has been a long time.

Corin Reviewed minutes from 1.12 and 2.9. Bria Knowles volunteers to be member-at-large for 21/22.

Dana – Budget cuts for 21/22

Had a convo with Ms. Scott about 21/22 budget cuts. Short story is rent is paid and bills are paid, not much money left over for “fun stuff.” Providing budget based on projected enrollment – using Jan/Feb number estimates. Ms. Scott thinks they have under projected (based on 394 students – Ms. Scott was able to get to 409 supported). Going to lose 1.5 interventionists (FT coming into classes to support students in class). We’ve also lost \$20K from Title 1 money and McCleary money to reduce class sizes- however, we have not been using that money to reduce class sizes and instead to support having a librarian, etc. Does not mean that we will have reduced class sizes. We are losing 5 current teachers/staff – 2 are retiring, one is taking a personal leave of absence, 1 is leaving district, 1 is moving to CA. Some of those roles will not be backfilled. Not able to share who – not losing any teachers, will not lose librarian, though she will go down to 50% from 60%. Increasing it back to 60% would be about \$14K. We lost \$40k of “green” equity money – mostly used for fieldtrips, subscriptions – this is going to be the thing she anticipates FOH can support. She is good at finagling to keep staff and teachers, but by doing so the cost is that there is no money for any fun extra stuff. Total is about \$100k+ loss. These budgets may change up until the school year starts, however.

Q from Josie – what does Ms. Scott want our general budget approach to be? People are being really budget conscious right now, first asking for community support in order to reserve FOH funds for next year, based on expectations of budget cuts.

FOH Board Nominating committee – had a convo with Maya, suggested we start focusing more heavily on K/1 families, give them time to learn how FOH works and get some new people. Ms. Kribbs said the K teachers are happy to input information into K newsletters that go out on Friday.

Katie Berman – Legislative update

Asking community to do outreach to other families they may know to remind people to register their K kids and any kids that are coming back in for next year. There will be another round of enrollment review in June to assess budgets. Budgets are key with regards to how budgets/resources are allocated, not just for Hawthorne but also the district and the city.

Today was cut off for old bills to be passed – Katie will send thru another email to share how you can advocate to the state to keep budgets for education where they are. State funds are based on enrollment and transportation both are off kilter this year – need to push to keep those based on this be a regular year, vs off year.

SPS hired a digital equity manager – to address any families technology issues. This person will go out to community to ensure families are getting resources they need, such as hotspots/bandwidth, etc. Help with any technology-related issues. Email Katie or Hawthorne leadership to get in touch with this person. Also District 7 meetings continue at a regular cadence, please let Katie know if you'd like to attend.

Josie – Treasurer's update

Last month we didn't spend much money, but we did receive some employer matches. Maureen and Jenny have volunteered to do the financial review – thank you!

We need to start prepping for next years budget – things we need to cover for next year in addition to what Ms. Scott mentioned.

2022 5th Grade camp- Mr Green did take lead on that, without him there its not moving forward. We will need other volunteers to help to drive this and coordinate with the school. Need to reserve space ASAP as that initial priority date has already passed. Deposit gets put down in April/May.

Is there someone willing to connect with teachers/admin about this? – they need to be on board. Ara will fill out the interest form to get in queue to start. Peter will take on communicating with the staff, Ara will co-coordinate. Perhaps Ms Flavors as she enjoyed it last time.

Percy – Spring Book Fair

Ms. Mak was asking if we have a Book Fair coordinator? In the past LaQuita Hester did this, she has graduated. This year would be entirely online for fair/purchasing. Discussion occurred, we feel that using our budget to just buy the books for students versus running the full fair – will lean toward whatever Ms Mak decides.

Peter Schumacher – Playground update

Been working with Ms Scott and the facilities dept at SPS. They made a firm decision that the playground will not open for the time being, they are solely focused on in-person school as a priority. Limiting access to site expect for phased groups coming back to the site. In person, the students WILL get to use the playground. But gates are closed at end of school day after launch closes.

Good news that K area will be opened up – there will be recess for those kids when they come back!

We are going to do a work party Saturday 13th – hoping to get volunteers from K and first grade families – basic cleaning work, move fencing, do some weeding. More opportunities in Spring.

Percy - Dance-a-thon

Reading Angela's email – will paste in below:

Melissa [Mak] and I had a fabulous conversation about some possible ways to make this Dance-A-Thon extravaganza work. After finding out that Art Corps can't accommodate us in its normal capacity, we are exploring some other options. I reached out to Franklin high school cheer team thinking it might be a fun way to connect with a local school but also spread some of our community's generosity with a neighbor school and donate to their team instead of paying another business to help create the dances. Melissa is also reaching back out to Art Corps to see if any of their individual instructors would be up for working with us. The administration is still excited about the fabulous idea of trying to host a Dance-A-Thon in an attempt to create a completely virtual event that can include every kid in our community. In theory, one of these groups would make a dance video to a different type of music and a different dance for each of our 6 grades. The kids would then practice these 6 dances via the videos with their PE teacher and asynchronously as often as they want. Then we would host a virtual assembly where they get to perform their dances grade by grade and invite family and friends to watch and donate if they can. If all of this gets lined up, and we receive these videos by the end of March, the kids can start rehearsing in April and May to then host the Dance-A-Thon assembly at the end of May. I still think this could be really fun! I think for now, we should go ahead and assume we can get some form of the dance videos set up for the kids and while we wait for confirmation as to the exact details of it, we as the planning committee should get the creative ball rolling on the communication and logistics on our side. Maybe each of us can think through the details of how best to roll this out and come up with potential challenges and potential plans and how we can individually contribute. When do we want to start advertising? How should we communicate the transparency behind the budget? How can we make this accessible to every family at Hawthorne? How can we make it easy to share with out of town family and friends? Do we want to use schoolauction.net or something more like Gofundme? Do we want to secure some bigger donations individually ahead of time still? And if so, do we want to present them as a match? Feel free to send the group any other big thoughts you might have. My hope is to hear back with an exact dance video plan over the next week. I'll let y'all all know as soon as I do. After that, we can set up a zoom meeting to discuss where we all want it to go from there and some brilliant brainstorms I am sure we are all going to have to these questions. Please call me or email me with any questions you have.

New Business –

Devin Bruckner – communication with non-native English-speaking families

Maple Elementary and Mercer have been spearheading these ideas: Language based chat groups

Do we want to think about how we could explore this at Hawthorne to support those communities? They are mostly used to share and post announcements and communication, school admin, etc. Now people post questions, answers, resources – more of an informal communication channel. Also another idea is offering interpretation at meetings at periodic community meetings, specially meetings that are more focused on school communications versus working meetings.

If we are interested, we could ask Ms Mak to engage or ask the staff person to ask the group that is meeting regularly to gauge interest on a Whatsapp channel or perhaps an occasional interpreter-supported meeting. We could possibly also do an opt-in campaign for the FOH newsletter to more broadly reach the audiences with data from the SPS site.

Jenny - We have done one all-opt-in campaign and asked people to opt out – it was not tremendously well received.

Percy – knows there is an existing Spanish text chain ongoing that he is part of and he will connect the Spanish-speaking (Liliana Camlimlim) who is leading that chain to Devin. Ms. Mak is always a great place to start.

Minutes approved on 4/6 meeting:



Meeting details

(20)

Ara Erickson 6:09 PM
I can give an update on the Book Fari Fair

Josie Clark 6:12 PM
I motion to approve the notes

Ara Erickson 6:12 PM
Motion to approve; second

Send a message to everyone

FOH April Meetina

