

CURLEY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2012

In attendance: *Dave Demerjian, (co-chair) Genevieve Day (co-chair), Kimberly Rand (treasurer), Lisa Foulger (co-secretary), Jess Ormsby, Leah Barcan, Heshan Berents-Weeramuni, Bill Elsbree, Maria Torella, Noreen Power, Molly Marino, Rebecca Nieto, Carrie Fletcher, Flo Zimmerman, Inci Kaya, Pam Yosca, Nicole Aljoe, Kieran Fitzgibbon, Betsy Mackey, Reagan Francis, Jennifer Layzer, Tania Castillo, Rosala DeLeon, Janet Malone, Dominic Burdick, Marilyn Ortiz, Santo Cespedes, Maria Ramos, Evelin Reyes, Claribel Saldana, Jenyfer Chambers, Yasilde Diaz-Garcia*

Budget Report – Kimberly Rand

Official net profit from the Fall Fling was \$9,404 and the Election Bake Sale was \$1710. We have spent some funds on Art Teacher supplies, an approved second grade Aquarium field trip, and a few misc. meeting expenses.

Fundraising Report – Molly Marino and Jess Ormsby

- No gift-wrapping this year at Barnes and Noble as we couldn't get a spot. Next year someone should call in September.
- Centre Street Shopping Event is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 11. More shops are included this year to expand the event.
- They are setting up a portal on Amazon.com so when folks shop online they can also support the Curley. Details to follow.
- Canary Square Silent Auction – Committee to be forming after the holidays to start work on this huge fundraiser for the school.

School Site Council – Leah Barcan

The School Site Council is a Representative group of teachers, administrators, parents. This year they are working on School/Family communication. They are currently writing a resource guide with information about school support services including information about the after school program. They are talking about how to get parents in the school (ie: performances, volunteering). Leah is reading up on these topics and recommends the books *Beyond the Bakesale* and *Essential Conversation*. She is also looking into setting up an email address for parents to better use the site council as representatives if they have questions and concerns about the school. In the meantime she offers her personal email: lbarcan@gmail.com

A question was raised regarding the Antibullying plan. She said the school's formal plan is called "The 5r's on School climate and culture". She said it's almost in final form and when it's finalized, will be included in the resource directory.

A question about why student teachers aren't as common in higher grades? It was brought up that mentoring student teachers is a lot of work for teachers and not all

choose to do it. The main issue from the concerned parent is about oversubscribed classes, over-taxed teachers, and situations where 1 or 2 disruptive children hinder the education of the rest. She cites the fourth grade AWC has 27 students. Other parent brought up 25 in second grade that should contractually be less. Parents feel that teachers need more support. Leah said she would bring this concern to the site council.

School Uniform Update – Allison Swartzbaum

Allison Swartzbaum one of Principal Slater's interns introduced herself. She is on a team working on an incentive program to increase compliance with the school Uniform policy. The school is rolling out a new program that includes giving raffle tickets to kids in uniform and raffling off prizes. They are looking for money from the SPC for the purchase of incentives. The amount may be as much as \$843.10, but this was not a formal proposal yet, and they have options that have less cost. This committee is working on a letter for teachers to use to help communicate with families not in compliance with uniform. Folks discussed doing an exchange for used uniforms. Parent Janet Malone mjanet8@gmail.com has volunteered to take this project on. Email her for more details: alison.schwartzbaum@gmail.com

Communication Report – Heshan Berents-Weeramuni

Heshan said the website and communications are running smoothly. Let him know if you want to write stories and manage twitter feed. lhbweeramuni@comcast.net

School Yard Renovation – Genevieve Day and Rebecca Nieto

In 2007 we were awarded the school yard grant that got us the outdoor classrooms and added softer spaces around the playground. We did not raise enough money at that time to fix the asphalt in the back of upper school. It is a visually undesirable area that is heavily used by the school community and an idea was had to build a playing field in that area. There is now interest in starting up the effort again and a sub-group is starting to investigate the feasibility of fundraising for such a large project. Questions were raised about whether BPS can help, involving the Mayor, other politicians and corporations. We need to leverage our own school community for resources, contacts, ideas, etc. Lochstead St. neighbors were concerned about playing field in their backyard, so particular sensitivity should be paid to abutting areas if planning were to resume. Email Genevieve for more info in this committee: genevieveday@mac.com

A need was also brought up regarding trash bins on the school yard and a more general question about who is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the this area and the school yard as a whole.

Interest in setting up a 501c3 “Friends of the Curley” Non-profit Organization - Dominic Burdick

Dominic Burdick, a parent who is also the Treasurer for the Curley After School Program (CASP) approached the SPC about partnering in the creation of a non-profit organization to support the Curley. CASP currently uses the Boston Educational

Development Fund (BEDF) for much of their financial affairs. Ongoing difficulties working with the BEDF has lead Dominic to look into alternate ways to conduct CASP business. One solution is to set up a Non-profit 501c3. The SPC would benefit from being a partner in this new organization as it would greatly aid fundraising and development efforts. In light of the new interest in the Soccer Field project consensus was that SPC would like to be involved with this. It will need a small board (likely the CASP treasurer, the SPC treasurer and a few other individuals), some filing expenses will need to be paid and there needs to be some meetings. Dominic will write a proposal to bring to next SPC meeting. A suggestion was made for him to reach out to a school that has already done the same thing (like the Hernandez) for some guidance, especially technical language needed for the documents. A comment was made suggesting that BPS hasn't been overly supportive of schools operating in this manner, but they can't prevent us from doing it and other schools have done it.

Special Education Update - Noreen Power

There is now a support group forming for parents of children with special needs. If your child is on an IEP, has a 504 plan or has some other special needs, you may benefit from connecting with other parents who have faced similar issues. Contact Noreen Power (the Curley's representative to SPEDPAC) at ncpower1@gmail.com for more information.

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Kindergarten Preview Tour. Looking for volunteers this Friday, *December 7th at 9am*

Holiday Centre Street Shopping Event. *December 11th shopping day/night.* Shops have been expanded. Fun event. Bring your flyer.

SPC meetings will continue to be alternating from morning to evening for the next few months. The next meeting will be on *January 9th* in the evening at 6:00 pm.

Our Guidance Counselor Sue Trotts is working to improve environmental/physical plant issues. She is bringing the BPS Head of Boston Facilities in for **an environmental walk-through of the school**. She is looking for at least 6 parents to attend. She is aiming *for January 17th* but the date and time will be formalized soon

Museum of Science Night – Date is set for January 18th. This is a community-building event and a great opportunity to visit the museum as a family.

Martin Luther King Jr. service day - *January 21st* - Boston Cares will come help with painting and other projects. Curley parents and kids will help with a service project. Keep posted for more info on this.