

## Curley School Parent Council Meeting Minutes November 4, 2014

- 1, Health and Wellness In the next year or two we can drink and fill bottles from fountains. One of two schools that will have it. Had not been able to drink from fountains due to lead. Will require 10 second flush. Call Mayor's hotline to urge that this happen as fast as possible. Committee could use more help. Meeting on first Tues. at 7:15. Also, more oversight is needed in the upper school cafeteria.
2. Fall Fling Made \$8,300. Could have sold more tix with more parent help, Scavenger Hunt was big hit, better and safer than bouncy house. City Year volunteers were a huge help. Need 2 card swipers for tix. Kristin keeping list for next year's event.
3. Holiday Shopping Night coming up. Four shops agree to give us a portion of proceeds. Made \$1000 last year. 3-4 possible volunteers.
4. Holiday Wrapping at the Prudential. Possibly too late for this year since you need to call in October to get a slot. Call Barnes and Noble to check on availability.
5. Friend Raiser. Did not do last year. An effort to tap into family in friends outside of Boston. The last time a full effort was made, raised \$2500. Somewhat labor intensive for the person organizing. Could it be done by email or should we focus instead on bidding for good for the auction in March. However, end of year is an important time to raise funds. Letter plus email? Might want a page on the website that people can link to with a donate now button. Include levels of donation. Link levels to things that would be purchased with that additional amount of money. Heshan can help with website. And Carrie could help with the letter.
6. Playing field update. Kieran noted that effort for event began on Sunday with clean up. Mayor and other officials were there and thanks are due to Katie Grassa, teachers, City Year, Soul Team, SPC for this happening the way that it did. The Committee was phenomenal to work with, and it was a stellar effort. Track is nearly finished. The kids have been making great use of it. Sadly, several tree branches have been broken both outside and during school. Need ground rules for maintaining the space and in particular trees as they are critical to the plan. On-going trash issue which needs to be addressed. Should be integrated into the Curley Cares campaign, particularly the upper school. We need a recycling bin so that there would be less trash. CASP is including yard clean up in activities. There are some great pix of the field that could be posted around the school to remind everyone of its value The yard could be split into areas that different groups could be responsible for. Need to place more expectations on kids i.e. have kids show how they care. And need to give them the tools. Still we need more trash barrels, better keep up of emptying, and possibly of solar compactors. Do we need to include janitorial staff at an SPC meeting to find out how we can best support them? Usually a request is made through official channels, (Facilities) and then follow up on Mayor's hotline to get it to happen. Also need a big barrel at Lochstead side exit.

Matt O'Malley's office should be key. Can be raised at the School Climate Committee too and bring to Katie's attention to include in Curley Cares.

BPS has a recycling campaign. Some kids came home with a pledge card. May be looking for a school to be the "model" so could be an opportunity. The BPS lead is a neighbor of a parent. Need to follow up with Sue Trotz who has been working on recycling for several year. The Mayor is also putting together a plan to review all the school facilities with meetings in the community to follow.

7. Arts Committee The big issue is the music program through Community Music Center of Boston which only serves up to Grade 5. The goal is to make it K-8. The teachers now find it to be disruptive, as it is not in a separate specials block. There is a matching grant from CMCB and that would be lost if we did a different program. The cost to have it in house would be significantly more. Still the current program uses the majority of the SPC budget. There are 4 dramatic arts performances plus 2 music performances with the calendar to come out soon! The upper school kids have 80 minute classes with no break so could it be switched? One parent sat in on the K1 lesson and it was horrible. Kids were terrified because of the disciplining going on. Has there been an evaluation of the teaching? It might have been one teacher and it was addressed. Where is Ms. Drakes? Kids are hearing rumors and it would be good to know what is really happening.

What is the SPC role? It seems we have primarily been fundraising for music and is that what we should be doing? The committee is starting now to look at options for next year and it needs to be considered in terms of the overall budget. The music program has been here for many years. But, the upper school lost its music teacher as well as journalism. SPC used to raise \$20k per year but of late made a commitment to take on music when school dropped it. It costs \$22K and school contributes \$5000. Remainder of SPC budget is for field trips, art supplies. It would be hard to get something comparable for a lower price. A decision should be made late winter to determine whether to continue with CMCB.

8. Uniform Exchange. Will put out winter gear as a place to donate coats etc. so those in need can take one. Middle schoolers are especially in need of coats, gloves, hats and especially uniforms (sizes 8-16) as well as sneakers and gym clothes. Are donations possible from other sources? Volunteers to help collect and organize are needed.

9. Bake Sale. Raised between \$800-1000. There needs to be more support and a team for events especially ones that are more public. More help in general needed for fundraising efforts. Robocalls could be effective. Maria and Betty used to do it. Now a script could be provided. Or a text blast. Struggle to get private information needed for texts Sharing of class lists where they are being made. Last year it did not happen and it was problematic. There was a rule change so BPS did not provide majority of information as had happened in the past. Try to collect at parent conferences. Need a sustainable system like a web based system, how is it stored? Updated? SPC can

raise it to Katie. Could SPC be included on check box on standard BPS docs at beginning of year?

Next meeting is Dec. 4. when we will be voting on the budget. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring friend.