

## Curley School Parent Council Meeting Minutes October 7, 2014

### 1. Welcome from Executive Committee

What is the SPC? What does it mean to be involved? Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month alternating mornings and evenings.

### 2. Principal Grassa

Ms. Grass complimented the work of the SPC last year noting that they raised \$40k plus \$350 for playfield. She noted that the Curley was an exceptional community and that the contribution of every SPC member was important- whether large or small in terms of what different families are able to give.

Ms. Grassa then introduced the school climate team. Ms Nason and Ms. Mahari and the other members are meeting every other Tuesday. Ms. Grass noted that it was important that we start the new year with a look backward and also forward, addressing challenges of loss of staff at end of last year.

The new Curley a Culture of Caring video was debuted. It Will be posted tonight on the Curley website. @principalgrassa is the new twitter account. The Climate Team is trying to get a budget of \$5000 to buy T shirts, display the pictures from the video, and make banners.

Other Curley Cares ideas: Wear your Curley gear on Friday, posters around the school , inclusion in professional development for staff; contest for Curley cares among students. The team will be at the fall fling with a photo booth and T shirts to sell. Hoping to raise enough to buy T shirts for all students. Even middle schoolers seem to like them.

There will be monthly assemblies with 2 grades together with awards for embodying the Curley Cares motto. October assembly replaced by the activities on the playing field. Only grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be present at the playing field opening. Recess that week for rest of kids on field.

The Team meets every other Tuesday at 4:15 and would love families to join.

A parent asked how the will new field be used. Ms. Grassa said it was still being worked out, in addition to after school, PE and recess. Sports teams are a possibility. Girls volleyball, boys baseball and boys and girls basketball are all being applied for. Middle school boys want football so a request is in to the district sports program. Generally, structured sports are for middle-schoolers.

Ms. Grass emphasized that this year students should be in classrooms by 8:30. She is working on getting the buses her on time.us issues. Parents should not be in the building after 8:35. All kids will get breakfast. Teaches Need to start instruction at 8:30. Pawprints has been used to emphasize this and remains our best means of communication.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS (See flyer on committees and relevant contact information)

1. The Student Site Council. The role was described how it is different from the SPC. While anyone is welcome at the meetings, additional members are needed. Three people at the meeting volunteered to join. Curley k-8 is now an official 501 C3! This makes fundraising easier.
2. Fall Fling. The date is fast approaching - next Friday 10.17, Many volunteers but more needed:
  - a. Sales of raffle tickets which are the main way we raise funds at this event
  - b. Need help with set up of tables and chairs between 2-4pm and break down afterward. In years past the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders helped
  - c. The event includes food, bake sale, silent auction, raffle ticket sales. Donation of water, juice and baked goods and needed. Also someone to pick up pizzas.
  - d. Gift basket donations are needed.
3. Silent Auction Will be held at Canary Square in March. Need volunteers to begin planning and outreach right after the Fall Fling, including an on-line component which will mean more items and more funds raised. Need help with soliciting donations, communications, packaging items and set up the day of.
4. Classroom Volunteering. Students are in class 30 hours per week in school with an average of 22 per class - but one volunteer can make a huge difference. Connecting school/teacher needs with parents who can help with specific projects. Wish list is on line. Under news link for Sept 10.
  - a. CORI required for in school volunteering [kpowers@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:kpowers@bostonpublicschools.org) [mvasquez@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:mvasquez@bostonpublicschools.org) Must be done every year, and be specific to working at the Curley (i.e. can't use CORI from other places).
  - b. Having training and tours for new parents. 11/3 at 7 pm; and 11/24 at 10:15 am
5. Playing Field. It is the central part of the second phase of the open space plan at the Curley. A Ribbon Cutting event will be held on 10/28. There will be a clean up of the grounds on 10/25 to make it look especially nice for event.
6. Orchard. There are a variety of fruit trees on the property. Those involved will be making apple butter for the Fall Fling.
7. Arts Committee The has been a large investment in music program so we need to make the most out of the investment and make sure that it is meeting school population needs. Volunteers are needed for the performances and art show and other special projects such as Instrumental accompaniment at events
8. Dramatic Arts. There are 4 major productions with 540 kids needing props, costumes, sets with one art teacher Grades 2-5 dance performances coming up soon. Need volunteers to help with ethnic dances including Danish, Indian, and Filipino.

9. Health and Wellness. Consists of faculty and students, outside orgs. and parents Focus this year is mindfulness. Salad bar was reinstated during last year and sale of unhealthy snacks was ended. The committee meets the first Tuesday each month at 7:15 – 8:15 am in Sue Trotz' office.
10. Uniform Exchange. Donations are welcome on an on-going by bringing in uniforms for kids and families who prefer them. Available to anyone to take and used for accidents in lower school. Winter coat/hats/gloves donations always needed! Volunteers also needed. It was noted that they can get Marshalls donations.
11. CASP. Will be accepting 4 year olds this year!!
12. Citywide Parent Council. Organization to bring together all SPC parents from all schools. Re-organized around budget cuts last year. Trying to get SPCs in all schools. Tuesday at BLA 6-7:30.
13. Update on AWC and General Ed. The committee will get into full swing in November and could be an item on the December agenda. Developing support groups for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade families to discuss how it is going and will incorporate into school preview. The goal is to address the cultural and social integration of the two groups and mitigate the perception that General Ed is somehow less than AWC.

NEXT MEETING: in upper school library at 8:45 the morning of November 7.