

PTA Minutes - December 13, 2016

1. Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Cotton Murphy gave a report on financial activity in the checking, money market and centennial accounts as of November 30, 2016.

2. Direct Appeal Report

Elizabeth Cotton-Murphy reported that as of December 12, 2016, the direct appeal has raised \$4,780. The PTA has received a number of larger contributions and recurring gifts through the PTA website.

3. Athletic Department Request

PE Teachers Murphy and Mr. Kanchwala requested funding in the amount of \$250 to provide all-day dance instruction by D.I.M.E.'s Marcus Brown to all Oakton students. All physical education classes, kindergarten through 5th grade, will receive dance instruction on Thursday, December 22, 2016.

A motion was made and approved to fund the dance instruction in the amount of \$250. An invitation to for parents to attend will go out via email and will include the physical education class schedule for December 22.

4. Basket Ball Coaches

Basketball coaches are needed to coach 4th and 5th grade teams for boys and girls at Oakton. Basketball games begin in mid-January; ideally practices should already be underway. Several parents offered to help find coaches. Notice should also go out through District 65 to solicit coaches from outside the neighborhood.

5. Uniforms

The athletic department was reminded that the approved PTA budget includes funds to replace uniforms for all Oakton sports teams this year. Teachers are encouraged to develop a funding proposal for new uniforms.

6. PTA Sponsorship Notification

The board and members requested that the administration do more to recognize PTA-sponsored events as they occur with a goal of encouraging parent participation and sponsorship. The flyer announcing the upcoming PTA-sponsored fieldtrip did not mention the PTA funding which was disappointing.

Oakton teachers used to be required to wear staff cougar shirts every Friday and during all fieldtrips. Staff cougar wear t-shirts could be printed to recognize events sponsored by the PTA. The PTA could sponsor the cost of the staff t-shirts. This would both increase awareness for the PTA and build community spirit. PTA officers will speak to Principal Williams about this idea.

The PTA discussed the importance of PTA involvement in spirit week. It was decided that the cougar wear fundraiser should kick off in advance of spirit week. Ideally cougar wear sales will open the week of January 23rd to coincide with the district chess tournament at Oakton. The PTA will research vendors who might offer the PTA a healthy % of proceeds on t-shirt sales again this year and prepare for cougar wear sales to open. It was decided that purchase orders will include an opportunity to "purchase a t-shirt for a friend."

7. Before-school and Lunchroom Care

A parent raised a concern about staff behavior during the early morning care program. She has withdrawn her child from the program and has spoken to Mr. Williams about the staff person. District 65 manages the staffing of all early morning, lunch and after school programs. The PTA recommended that the parent file a complaint with the district.

8. Letter of Unity and Inclusion

The Committee on Cultural Inclusiveness has written a letter in response to post-election concerns about diversity and inclusion. The letter was circulated and members present were encouraged to provide comments to the author. The PTA offered to assist the Committee on Cultural Inclusiveness in scheduling a meeting in the new year, in helping the committee to solicit committee members, and in the distribution of the letter. Leila Wilson was asked to write a cover letter to all parents that would announce a date for a committee-hosted inclusion event to be distributed with the letter. The PTA will assist in providing translation and childcare for the scheduled event. One parent suggested that the children could work on a topical art project related to cultural diversity as part of the event. One parent knows an art therapist who might provide services at no charge during the event.