

## Board Meeting 11/12/ 2024

In attendance: Matt Hunt, Marika VanderSmith, Anna Bonnett, Kelly French King, Emily West Foyle, David McKnight, Michael Polin, Maya Narayanan, Allison Bettles, Ms. Salisbury, Kerry Billingham

### Approved September meeting minutes

#### Principal Update (Dr. Marshall not present)

- o Marika reported back on meeting with Dr. Marshall.
- o Discussed move from IXL to Success Maker - this was done at the district level. Success Maker is more aligned with the math curriculum
- o Dr. Marshall agreed that there is a need for more mental health services – discussed ideas (see below)
- o Follow-up with Dr. Marshall needed to confirm PTSA financial assistance for substitutes during standardized testing periods.

#### Mental Health support/Special Needs Support

- o Mental Health Support is needed, Diego (SW) is onsite 3x a week and there is more of a need
  - o Could the PTSA possibly support bringing in speakers for classroom presentations, parent education, or professional development around Social Emotional Learning?
  - o Could community licensed therapists volunteer to help fill the gap with volunteer hours?
  - o Could Mrs. Elaine provide more hours and have an art space that kids could come to when they need a break - PTSA fund would need to help with this
- There is interest in using an art room space- will share with Dr. Marshall to find out more info on what this could look like with volunteers or Mrs. Elaine
- o Concerns around adding in community to help with mental health- seems messy with confidentiality
  - o What else fills the gap?
  - o Can PTA cover additional social worker/therapist for additional days?

#### LASER Update

- o Parent night out Friday 11/15
- o Childcare offered week of Thanksgiving
- o Laser would like to be included in Bryant community events, please let the know. Marika informed them about Reflections and they will work with students that are interested in submitting work

#### Family Resource and Support Team

- o Marika talked with FIN program lead (Nina)
- o More families are utilizing grocery cards and services than years past. There are more immediate ask (warm coat, extra food related to job loss/transition)
- o More guidelines for emergency support should be created so it is clearer when PTSA budget can be used for unplanned expenses.

- o Team is working on creating a bulletin board with holiday requests for FIN students and want to expand more broadly. Veronica (VP) said one of the biggest ways to help families would be to help them find work. We talked about having the bulletin board be online and cover resources, requests for help, offers to help, and volunteer opportunities for families.
- o Packing Parties are being scheduled
- o Set up meeting with Diego to discuss direct needs of families (Marika)
- o Could we do a coat/clothing exchange in the beginning of the year. Eckstein has a clothing closet that is stocked for families
- o Could you have Laser give us the lost and found from Laurelhurst and we give Bryant to sister school or another idea?
- o PTSA board agreed to saying yes to providing direct asks from family (coats, additional supports etc)
- o Set up an Amazon wish list and Diego distributes the items to families?
- o Other needs mentioned; help with resumes, help finding a jobs, clothing etc. Anna can help with resume help- will send to Nina

#### Auction

- o We need to make sure it is inclusive and that we have clear language about why we are meeting. Provide a point of entry that is accessible and provide scholarship and financial assistance to anyone interested in attending
- o Are we comfortable floating the money for this knowing it may not come back. Are we comfortable with a break even for a community adults only event?
- o March timing to coincide with auction
- o Have Mo provide a proposal and share at Dec board meeting
- o Michael, Matt, and Marika will talk to Mo

#### Annual Campaign update (Michael Polin)

- o Higher donations but less people donating.
- o Need board help to staff additional recess on 11/21

Matt and Marika shared info on NE PTA collaboration to invite Briggs to talk with community.

- o Going forward: - Bryant will work with Leah (advocacy chair) to invite Evan Briggs to talk with our community. Mention that it's also about general questions, not just well-resourced school stuff. How do we raise the cap?
  - David said he can work on additional questions but let's ask our community
- o We should provide an update to the school on the lack of meeting with Briggs- Matt will draft something

#### Adjourn