

Present: C. Hayes-Lattin, J. Pratt, J. Montagne, G. Goldfarb, K. Croak, O. Kosansky, K. Couch, G. Dursch, M Lazaro, M. Bedolla, L. Hernandez, L. Soto, I. Munguia Y Tadeo, B. Frank, A. Cross, V. Rodriquez, N. Schulak, J. Cohen, J. Cowal, P. Ruegger, A. Keny-Guyer, L. Mason, A Myrthue, L. Eby, R. Belcher, J. Laden, J. Hansen, S. Campbell.

Stand for Children: Kathy Couch, a representative from Stand for Children, congratulated Atkinson for our successful efforts to get more counselors for PPS. She acknowledged the power of multiple people speaking with one voice. Her successful personal experience talking to legislators about school issues in 2007 motivated her to continue to be vocal and organized in the struggle for children/school issues. Kathy talked about the successful changes that Stand catalyzed in the PPS hiring process, as agreed upon by the union and the district. This represents a huge change to improve teacher/school fit. Kathy also discussed the upcoming ballot measures that need pro-school voices. For example, *Initiative 19* will affect language immersion programs tremendously by banning non-English education for more than two years. Visit www.stand.org for details on several measures and to become a member. Membership means a variety of things: giving money, being part of the discussion, contacting a legislator; it can be as much as you want it to be. Stand meetings for the Tabor group usually happen quarterly.

Updates: (Chris Gutierrez)

Atkinson is experiencing some building maintenance issues. The roof is leaking along the beams in room 109. Tiffany George’s class has had to move to room 115 for the remainder of the year. The tiles from the ceiling have been removed in order to look more closely. It is proving to be a difficult situation to fix. The district will do some environmental checking (moisture, mold etc.) this summer. If we complain, will we get closed? No, that is not the process for school closure.

Chris thanked the parents that fought for change in the rubric for administrative FTE (Full Time Employee) cuts. (See April notes for the rubric explanation.) The group of parents convincingly argued for change and our cuts were mitigated. Six schools received a .5 counselor because of this active parent group. This money goes into administrative funds so will be used to retain Vice Principal Rob Stewart at half-time; because funding for our counselor, Janelle, had already been secured through other funding in order to avoid having her posted as unassigned. The other .5 we recouped through an increase in funding for Title One Elementary schools will be used to retain Sasha Luria as a “push in” bilingual teacher.

Budget Update and Proposal: (Jim Laden and Chris Gutierrez)

The following shows what was initially going to be cut and what the current cuts will be:

INITIAL PROPOSED CUTS FOR ‘08	STAFF ADDED BACK for ‘08
- 1.0 TOSA (i.e., Rob Stewart)	+ .5 TOSA (“Teacher on Special

	Assignment")
- 1.0 ESL Specialist	+ .5 Basic Skills/Sp. Immersion (Luria)
- 1.0 Immersion Specialist	
- .5 PE Specialist	
- .4 Office Secretary	

TOTAL PROPOSED LOSS: -2.9 FTE

As a result, Chris is asking PTA to fund .5 FTE to fund two half time certified employees (or one full time). These positions represent bilingual education assistants.

Jim walked through the budget to see if we can afford this:

'07-08 PTA Finances:

\$106,000 in savings

-\$11,000 earmarked for OLG (Outdoor Learning Garden)

-\$45,000 earmarked for Covered Playground

\$50,000 of uncommitted money available to negotiate

Information:

-funding .5 FTE EA (Education Assistant) would cost the PTA \$23,500

-funding the smaller covered playground structures would cost \$67,000 (\$45K of which is previously earmarked, so requires an additional \$22K)

The PTA must decide whether to fund a .5 FTE for \$23,500, AND/OR fund a playground structure, AND/OR maintain some reserve funds in the PTA account. Discussion included the points that we actually do have enough money to do this, that we need to consider whether we should be funding personnel as that requires refunding each year, and that should we keep more in reserve because next year's cutting is worse. Jim added that we can't actually do both because we would not have adequate funds left for the fall expenses (as income is generated mostly in the spring). We do have enough however to fund the EA and commit the money (not spend the money) for the structure in the summer of '09. It was also noted that we could submit grant proposals for the playground cover next year, in hopes of keeping some of our funds in reserves.

MOTION 1: (Kristin Croak) The PTA should vote to fund the .5 FTE at the cost of \$23,500. The majority of those in attendance voted for the motion. One opposed. MOTION APPROVED.

MOTION 2: (Kristin Croak) The PTA should vote to commit (but not yet to spend) \$22,000 to the covered playground fund (creating a total of \$67K) to build the smaller structure costing. All present voted in favor. MOTION APPROVED.

Tabor Commons: (Alissa Keny-Guyer) Should the PTA contribute money to the Tabor Commons? Atkinson will benefit from this project tremendously (by establishing a

community coffee shop and gathering place across the street, with long term goals of offering classes for skill building. The financial need is high and immediate, as improvements will be occurring all summer and beyond. Other local groups (i.e., Franklin HS PTA, Mt Tabor Neighborhood Association, and Mt Tabor MS) have contributed funds and/or in-kind services. A motion was not made at this time and will be addressed on June 3.

Gift Wrap: Julie recapped the gift wrap “issue.” Julie is willing to do the gift wrap fundraiser if it has the incentives for children that it had in previous years. This year the gift wrap fundraiser made \$6K less presumably because there were no incentives. (The ability to opt out of assembly will remain intact.) The motion was made that Julie do the fundraiser with incentives. The majority of those present voted for Julie to continue the fundraiser. One opposed.

Volunteer Recognition: Thank you to all of those who contributed this year. A special thank you to Alissa Keny-Guyer, Sheri Campbell and Jean Hansen for their leadership. We are also very grateful to Jim Laden for his role as Treasurer, Courtney Hayes-Lattin for her role as Treasurer, and to Kate Mountain for her work on Running Club.

June 3rd: We will need to convene an additional PTA meeting on June 3rd from 6:30-8pm to address the remaining points on our agenda. Specifically we will fill PTA roles on that date.