

Stoddert PTA Meeting Agenda

Wednesday April 9th, 2014

6:30—8:00 p.m.

I. PTA President's Report

- Big Chill(i) – initial numbers indicate that \$17K was raised at the live auction, which is a remarkable \$9K more than last year. As of April 9, revenue was essentially the same as last year. PTA executive board brainstormed ideas on how to increase participation by Stoddert parents. One idea was to demonstrate to the community how PTA funds contribute toward academic and extracurricular initiatives. Idea for next year is to increase outreach to parents who attend the school open houses. In preparation for next year's Big Chili, the PTA executive board would like to get a head start on finding more volunteers to help organize.
- Playground update – Plans are with DCPS to send out for vendor pricing/bids.
- Coldwell Banker/Capitol Area Food Bank Healthy Food Drive Request - Coldwell Banker Director of Operations and Stoddert mom, Dominique Pyles, is coordinating the annual Harvest for the Hungry food drive from May 2-10. Food bins will be available at the school where the community can drop off non-perishable food. Announcements will be made to the Stoddert community via flyers and Chalkboard.
- Book Fair – Dates are set for October 6-10. We have a new vendor, Bookworm; they are the same vendor used by nearby area schools, including Holy Trinity. Bookworm has received positive reviews from parents. As a fundraising event, if \$6K or more is spent with the fair Stoddert earns 25% in cash or 35% in book credits for teachers to use.
- International Night Potluck—Wednesday May 21st Robin Spence has volunteered to organize/manage this annual tradition. (Note: school staff handles International Day events).
- Hardy Feeder School report – Stoddert will continue to be represented. Continued emphasis on foreign language, advanced math, stabilizing the budget, and following an enrichment model.
- Coming Board elections – May 15
- DME Boundary Meetings and implications for Stoddert – Continue to pay attention to the issue. Submit feedback on engagedc.org. As Stoddert nears capacity, there is talk of redrawing boundaries to accommodate growth. In one version of the DME's plans, Burleith was redistricted from Stoddert to Hyde-Addison. Discussion occurred regarding whether the Stoddert PTA should take a position on the issue. Ultimately it was decided that because the issue continues to move and morph quickly, the Board does not currently wish to take any official position. Instead, we want to focus on educating our community and encouraging families to get involved and make their voices heard.
- 2014/2015 funding for staff – Continue the hybrid model of paying the garden coordinator from PTA and DCPS funds. The experiential coordinator is going to be hired by DCPS as a fulltime library aide and that role is expected to expand and will become more defined. The Executive Board should discuss any interest it has in augmenting the experiential coordinator's role once we know the candidate has agreed to come onboard as a DCPS employee.

- PTA/PTO Issue – The Executive Board has previously discussed the need to revisit our structure and by-laws which have not been updated or even reviewed officially for many years. Caitlin had tentatively volunteered to take on this project when she rotates out of the co-president position (so next school year). However, recently, the IRS has begun putting pressure on nonprofits, such as the national PTA, to affirm their nonprofit status. We call ourselves a “PTA” and as such this makes Stoddert’s parent-teacher group an associated group with the national and state PTA and requires us to pay the DC PTA chapter annual dues and provide them with information about our members. After a discussion of the value Stoddert derives from being associated with the national PTA, a motion was passed to begin exploring the process of what would be involved in disassociating our school’s group from the national/state PTA and establishing ourselves as another model (PTO or parent teacher organization, is an example).
- II. Principal’s report – DCCAS testing is complete. Third grade will participate in a pilot Park test on May 6 and 7. PIA testing is scheduled for June 5. It looks likely that demountables are coming to Stoddert. In preparation for school year 2014-2015, Stoddert is hiring a language teacher, PE teacher, and assistant principal. During the last six weeks of school, Stoddert will welcome a teaching fellow from Burundi. Judith Subuko will be at Stoddert to observe our early childhood programs; she started her own early childhood program in Burundi.
- III. Teacher’s report – Science Fair for Grades 3-5 is on May 29 and a Science Expo for PK-Grade 2 is on May 30.
- IV. Budget/Treasurer report – no report
- V. Other business
 - Chorus! – Organized by Ms. Liora, there will be two groups: Grades 1 and 2; Grades 3-5. The choir will meet once a week at 8 am.
 - Date of May PTA Meeting – May 15
- VI. Upcoming events
 - a. Coffee with the Principal – May 9 at 8:30
 - b. Surfside Restaurant Night – 1st week in June
 - c. Teacher Appreciation week – week of May 5th
 - d. Field day – May 14
 - e. Chicks arrive April 28