

## **FRANKLIN PTO 10/2/08 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Susan LaPierre - Co-Chair  
Tracy Soehle - Co-Chair  
Eva Zervos - Vice- President  
Deb Rooney - Treasurer  
Lisa Chedekel - Secretary  
Amy Kelly - Principal

Call to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcome by Susan LaPierre. Agenda and PTO budget for '08-'09 were distributed to all in attendance.

A motion was made to nominate Tracy Soehle as Co-Chair of the PTO and Eva Zervos as Vice President. The motion was seconded and a voice vote was taken by all members answering in the affirmative and none in the negative. Motion was passed and both members were elected.

Treasurer Rooney presented a line-by-line PTO budget, explaining that anticipated income from dues was down slightly from last year, mainly because there was a one-time contribution of \$2,000 from one family last year that was not repeated this year. Rooney also explained the rollover of some funds from last year that would be expended this year. There was discussion of the teacher mini-grants that are to be awarded in the fall, and the tight budget for technology. A parent in attendance raised concerns about the inequities in various schools' ability to raise parent contributions for technology, to supplement the school system's contribution.

Principal Kelly introduced herself to the group and offered parents the chance to ask questions. One parent asked, "How's it going?" Kelly said she is enjoying the job so far and is learning many things about Franklin – some that she hopes to improve upon, such as school rules to create a sense of order and uniformity.

Parent Julia Wolfe of the Environmental Committee spoke of her efforts to start a "walking school bus" program at Franklin, in which parents will lead groups of children along walking routes to and from school. She asked for more participants to join the effort, which she said would kick-off in early October.

Parent Meghan McAnulty spoke about plans for the annual School Appreciation Day, held Sat., Oct. 4.

Two parents active in Stand for Children spoke generally about the group and highlighted the possible negative consequences of a referendum about repealing the state income tax that is on the Nov. ballot.

Dr. Wayne Altman, an Arlington physician with expertise in childhood obesity and nutrition, was the guest speaker. He encouraged parents to help create a “culture of wellness” at home and in school and offered tips for healthy eating. Among his tips: “White rice is a glorified candy bar.”

Members of the PTO’s Playground Committee presented plans for a new playground to be built at Franklin this fall, using nearly \$70,000 that has been set aside for the project over several years. The committee said they were able to secure a 30-percent discount from the vendor, saving about \$30,000 of the new playground’s \$100,000 price tag. They said work on the project, which was unveiled to parents at Curriculum Night in September, would begin when the city removes the old equipment, and that a lag time of a week or two between the removal and the installation of the three new structures was possible. They presented a detailed budget showing that the new playground will cost \$74,379, to be paid for with about \$69,000 in the Franklin School playground account and another \$12,500 in anticipated marathon money. Committee members thanked parent Susan Boyer, Principal Kelly and the PTO board for supporting the project. They said some fundraising would continue in the future for landscaping, new swings and other associated improvements.

A motion was made and seconded for the PTO board to release the necessary funds for purchase of the playground equipment. A voice vote was taken of all members and approval was unanimous.

Co-chair LaPierre thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes taken by: L. Chedekel