

Journeys School

Parent Council (PC) Kick-off Meeting – Minutes
September 21, 2011, 5:30pm

Members Present: Amy W, Pamela D, Carrie K, Jane G, Carin M, Bob G, Norene C, Danny J, Lisa F, Christy E, Yazmina G, Caroline L, Karen S, Dana N, Daniela B, Sara D, Cathy K, Kim R, Jean L, Vonde S

Staff Present: Nate McClennen, Tammie Van Holland, David Watson, Maggie Schilling, Laurel Wyckoff, Consultant Tom Wilson

The Parent Council met for its 2011/2012 kick-off meeting on Wednesday, September 21st, at 5:30 p.m. in the Elementary School building. The meeting began with an introduction of PC Officers and Class Level Representatives as defined below.

President:	Amy Williams
Vice President:	Pamela Dunn
Secretary:	Open
Staff Liaison:	Tammie Van Holland
Pre-K Class Rep:	Susannah Lynch & Jean Lewis
Elementary Rep:	Cindy Daly
Middle School Rep:	Caroline Croft-Estay
High School Rep:	Jane Gallie

Development Report: Laurel Wyckoff and Maggie Schilling gave a brief overview of this year's unrestricted Annual Fund goals, which are \$550,000 for Journeys School and \$1,122,000 for Teton Science Schools. They introduced Tom Wilson, a consultant with Campbell & Company, who is working with Teton Science Schools on a new two-year \$25 million comprehensive campaign.

Amy W then reviewed Parent Council objectives with the group, which provided the backdrop for the rest of the evening's discussion and proposed activities for the school year. These objectives are:

1. Support communication and education for Journeys School families and faculty
2. Assist faculty and support school projects, agendas, and community events
3. Engage as many families as possible in classroom and school community events to maximize student success and enhance the Journeys School experience for all members
4. Promote Journeys School philosophy and educational approach in the broader community to attract/retain outstanding students, faculty, and families.

Pamela D reviewed the Educational Topics that will be discussed at future Parent Council meetings over the remainder of the year. October's meeting topic will be Curriculum Mapping led by Nate McClennen.

Pamela D also updated the group on various communication vehicles available to parents for accessing faculty/staff, Parent Council information, community events, etc. Items of special note included:

1. New e-mail addresses for each PC Officer and Class Level Rep where parents can send questions, comments, and suggestions (live by 10/6)
2. Parent Council TSS website tab (Journeys/Family Resources/Parent Council) for:
 - a. Meeting agendas will be posted Monday prior to Thursday monthly meetings
 - b. Meeting minutes will be posted the week following the Thursday meeting
3. Head of School brown bag lunches at 12 noon on 10/19, 11/16, 2/15, 4/18, 5/16.

Amy W reviewed the Parent Council Activity Calendar, highlighting some of the key community wide events, as well as some new events scheduled throughout the year. Carin M suggested that we post the event calendar on Google Scheduler or a similar online tool to more easily update parents on scheduled events. Communications Director David Watson agreed to explore this option by the next Parent Council meeting. Tammie then routed sign-up sheets so that parents could volunteer to help with specific events. Volunteer Coordinator Jean Lewis or the Event Coordinator will follow-up with parent volunteers in advance of the events for which they volunteered. Many thanks to those who signed up!

Contact Tammie Van Holland if you would like to sign up to volunteer for:

Teacher Breakfast, Lunch, or Coffee, anytime, support faculty by pleasing their taste buds!
Teacher Take-Home Dinner, 11.1-2.12, help cook on the 1st or wrap/distribute on the 2nd
PK-12 Winter Celebration, 12.15.11, help staff set up or break down at Walk Festival Hall

Contact Jean Lewis if you would like to sign up to volunteer for:

Parent Council Secretary / 6-12 Speaker Series Coordinator
PK-2 Sledding Party 3.3.12 Coordinator (PK-2) /6-12 Activity Night Coordinator 4.27.12
PK-12 Bingo Night Volunteer, 1.20.12 / PK-5 Valentine Party Volunteer, 2.11.12
PK-2 Sledding Party Volunteer, 3.3.12 / 6-12 Activity Night Volunteer, 4.27.12
PK-12 Talent Show Volunteer, 5.4.12

Nate gave an overview of the Journeys School Strategic Plan, which has been submitted to the TSS Board as part of TSS's overall Strategic Plan. He discussed the vision statement, 6 key objectives with specific program efforts for each, and the work underway now with faculty/staff to develop measurable goals and action plans to implement the Strategic Plan. Parents applauded this effort and were excited about the School's future direction.

During the course of the meeting, two TSS Board questions were raised, which Amy and Pamela will pursue and report back at the 10/6 PC meeting:

1. Will the TSS Board Meeting agendas be published in advance so that parents can be apprised of topics to be discussed?
2. Can the Journeys School Strategic Plan summary document be published and used for marketing/educational purposes this fall in advance of the completion/approval of the TSS Strategic Plan in January?

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.