

Equity Working Group Minutes

Feb 26, 2019

9 – 11 am

Underwood School

Present: Kathleen Smith, Christine Dutt, Kerry Prasad, Kathy Shields, Maggie Schmidt

Note-taker: Kerry Prasad

Plan to present to SC

4/24 EWG presentation to SC

5/13 SC vote

Outreach to other districts

Malibu/Santa Monica Unified School District

Maggie spoke to a Malibu/Santa Monica School Administration Staff Member and Education Foundation Staff Member

- They started centralized fundraising for staff and programming 7 yrs ago
- They raise \$3.2 mil
- NOW, they are looking at the inequity caused by PTOs spending on other items; so, they are at the same point we are at.
- Takeaway-
 - It was hard to start centralized fundraising,
 - fundraising is getting stronger now; they are getting more corporate support
 - *Lots of decision-making has been moved up to the district*

FACES (Seattle)

Kerry has appointment to speak with Hayden Bass on Thurs, 2/28

Brookline

Kerry contacted PTO leaders there; they briefly discussed pooling several years ago, but it was too complicated to sort out

PTO Treasurer Survey

We will deal with Treasurer Survey through email;

Read through questions- respond by email; final survey done by end of week

PTO Board Member Survey

Based on focus groups, there seems to be a feeling that people think district should pay for tech
It is less clear how people feel about PTOs paying for “curriculum related items”- (cris)

We will tweak survey questions to find out how people feel about the ideas proposed by the focus groups

Introduction to PTO Member Survey: Thank you for participating in the focus groups. We heard your ideas and incorporated them into this PTO Member survey.

Questions

Do you feel like your PTO dedicates too much, too little or the right amount of time and energy on fundraising?(What is the impact on your community?)

Do you feel your PTO is able to spend the time its want to spend on community building and community events? (If not, why not?)

Do you currently feel like you are able to raise the money you want to have to fund the projects you want to do?

What is your highest priority in spending?

Prioritize your PTO spending by rank

MATRIX: community events? Creative Arts & Sciences? Technology? Field Trips? Library?

Principal discretionary fund?

Teacher appreciation? Classroom supplies? 5th grade activities? Building and grounds? Playground?

Who do you think ought to pay for _____

MATRIX: Tech? CAS? Field trips? Library? Small group staff development? Teacher classroom support?

PTO?

NPS?

Combination of PTO and NPS?

I don't know

Other

Several themes for ways to address inequity emerged in the focus groups. We would like your feedback on these ideas. What is your reaction to the following?

One Newton Fund- centralized fundraising option

Raise-the-bar Contribution- for every dollar you spend above the cap, a percentage goes to a fund for equity at another school

Percentage- Each PTO donates a small, set percentage to an equity fund (eg: 3% or 5%)

Enrichment fee- Each family receives a bill; families can apply for a waiver

Directed Equity Fund: All PTOs contribute however much they can to an directed equity fund (eg- CAS, tech, library, etc); all the money will be distributed as a per pupil amount. As an incentive to contribute, each PTO's spending in the area of the directed fund will be limited to its per pupil allocation from that fund.

Next meeting:

We will vote to approve meeting minutes at our next meeting

Monday, 3/4, 8:45am, Underwood

Christine:

Will resend Treasurer's survey

Form response to emails

Will send us the Google Survey email address and passwords for it

Kathy:

Will draft a thank you to the Focus Group members; "We heard your ideas and included them in the PTO member survey etc..."

Will circulate a spreadsheet for EWG to organize the emails we receive

Kerry:

Will take responses to Treasurer's Survey and make changes

All:

Review Minutes

Review Treasurer's Survey, it should be ready by Friday 3/1