

IFA All Family Meeting Notes

December 12, 2019



5:45 - snacks, mingling

6:05-6:20 - icebreaker, break into 4 groups based on favorite candy and find things in common that don't have to do with your kids

6:20 - IFA Agenda

6:55 - School Presentation

IFA Agenda

Intros

SY 19-20 Activity Overview

Financials

Volunteers

Upcoming dates

School update

Quick Board Intros: Martha, Amanda, Tim, Charles, Terrence

Activity Overview

Staff appreciation family potluck

FALL FEST! Thanks to Tim & Abe

Wins for sports

Middle School Evening of the Arts

ECE Coffee Hour

Morning of the Arts tomorrow

YTD Financials

	<i>Expenses Budget</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>
Staff Appreciation	\$2,000	\$117
Social Events	\$2,900	\$525
Child Care	\$1,615	\$860
Merchandise	\$150	
Office and Administrative	\$1,225	\$848
Meeting costs & refreshments	\$1,250	\$255
Beautification/Gardens	----	
Total	\$9,140	\$2,605
	<i>Income Budget</i>	<i>YTD Income</i>
Donations	\$200	\$30
Merchandise	----	
Photos	\$900	\$620
Social Events and Showcase Food	\$900	\$181
Total	\$2,000	\$831
Draw from Reserve	(\$7,140)	TBD
ANTICIPATED RESERVE BALANCE	\$17,000	

A. Expenses

Spending so far has been on:

- Up front admin costs
- Voices of Village event
- Fall Fest
- Back to School night
- Third Thursdays
- 2 child care events

B. Revenue

Revenue for the year:

- Photo revenue lower than expected by about \$200
- But offset by bake sale at fall fest of \$181

Conversations about ongoing MOU with the school to not wipe out the cash reserve. Still working out the exact details but would involve a percentage from the current year to fund the next year.

Q: What happens to the funds raised for the school?

A: Those funds go directly to the school and not the IFA. The IFA raises very little money and that covers the modest expenses that we have.

Q: Does the IFA receive and direct the funds that are raised by the parents for the school?

A: No. It got too cumbersome about what people wanted the funds to go to. Instead it was decided that the school can make the best decision on where they need the money.

Q: Is there an annual report for what the money was used for that we raised last year.

A: It is being updated right now.

Q: Is this how other schools are organized?

A: It depends on the school. People have had experiences with other schools that are set up like we are. Others have had experience where schools raise restricted funds but they run into issues. There are also questions about funding things that would be yearly expenses like new positions.

Volunteers

Kiss & Go - Ms. Ghanta and Moira need help! Leah Squires will be sending out a volunteer sign-up form for people to use. Ms. Ghanta needs to be inside the school and not manning the Kiss & Go every day.

Please consider if you can be late once a month maybe to see if you can sign up once in awhile. It doesn't need to be all the time.

Other needs:

- Help with EdFest on Saturday. Contact Kelly Brown
- Fundraising - online auction starts at the end of January 2020. Terrence will be in contact with a form. Terrence can also use help with reaching out to a list of area businesses.
- Kids Can Do Fair - a new event developed by the Parent Education Program. Scheduled for Feb 2020 and we need a co-chair in order for the event to happen since it is a heavy lift. If we can't find a second person, we will probably have to postpone.

- International Festival - scheduled for early June 2020. Need co-chairs for the event or it will need to be canceled for this year.

Staff Holiday Gift Collection

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. The goal is \$4,000 to cover gifts and wrapping for all of the staff.

Upcoming Events

December 15 - Staff Gift wrapping Party

December 19th - Third Thursday

Jan 27-Feb 2 - Online Auction

Feb 1 - Chili Cook Off

Feb 29 - Kids Can Do & Move Night

March 19 - Next IFA Meeting

Q: What is the most impactful thing a parent can do? Is it being here or volunteering?

A: Yes, volunteering is obviously helpful. But if you can't be here there are plenty of other things people can do to feel part of the community.

Q: What about Inspired Evening?

A: It's May 2nd, but the calendar was through the next meeting.

Q: What is Inspired Evening? What are these events so new families understand?

A: Third Thursday is a time to stay after drop off to have coffee and snacks with other parents and be a bit social. The Chili Cook-Off is a big yearly event where parents and kids can sign up to bring their favorite chili. People buy a bowl and then vote for their favorite. Kids Can Do is new. Family Movie Night is in February and includes a pizza sale IFA fundraiser. Inspired Giving Week is a chance for everyone to participate in fundraising in any way they are able. Inspired Evening is an event for parents only with an open bar, food, dancing and the live auction where representatives from each grade bid for classroom experiences.

Q: Are events always on Saturday?

A: I think we have defaulted to Saturday because so many families are at church on Sunday. Don't know if the school has an issue with opening on Sunday.

A: Debbiy - nope we're ok with Sunday.

A: There are also people who have religious commitments who would prefer to be on Sunday as well. The IFA will take this feedback into consideration for future event planning!

Q: Kiss and Go seems to be a perennial issue. Has the school considered hiring someone where this is part of their job instead of having this being part of the parent volunteer realm.

A: Ms.Ghanta and Mr. Thomas are both out there and there are a bunch of teachers who are out in the cafeteria doing other organizing things in the morning.

Q: How easy is it to sign up for Kiss & Go? Could it be someone's full time volunteer job to get that filled?

A: It was. We also do send out a lot of emails but people just aren't reading them or aren't signing up for it.

A: It's hard b/c the people who use Kiss & Go, they can't be here to volunteer and the people who could volunteer don't use it so it's hard to make the case for why you should volunteer.

Q: Could the middle school help out with Kiss & Go?

A: Suriya - we tried it and it is still a goal. But the middle school instruction day starts before Kiss & Go is over. It's hard with the timing to structure.

School Presentation

Standards-Based Grading & Report Cards

By Suriya Douglas

Icebreaker - Lineup based on your high school GPA

Suriya: Was your identity then connected to your GPA and your feeling of being a scholar?

A: Most people said yes.

Suriya: That's how most people feel. Children also feel that way and it's much more of a black and white, I am stupid or I am smart. It has a deep impact on children and their sense of self and how they seem themselves.

Article passed out called A California Principal Joins the Call for Grading Reform, Marshall Memo 794, July 8 2019. Small groups asked to read and discuss.

Share back:

- Grading at ITDS vs. DCPS is a bit different so it affects your high school applications. That was surprising. And that lack of alignment only affects 7th & 8th grade.
- Separating behavior vs. academic performance - you can have a great behavior but not performing.
- When the report cards come home, equating 4 with an A and being proud as a parent.
- Question about homework and how the volume affects motivation.
- The ITDS report cards can be more nuanced which is nice. But others said that only works if you know what the nuances mean.
- Is there a lot of research to show that method based structure is way better than the structure of 100 point system just because it had issues. Was the old system all bad and is the new really all good?

- High grades vs. career success - can definitely see that. Where people who may do a good job running a company are often the people who weren't great students. How do we encourage those students then and how do we continue to get kids excited about learning.
- Kids do eventually go to high school and colleges where a 100 point system exists and so they need to be prepared for that. How do you do that if you buck that system early on.
- Does this take into account teacher bias or grading inflation or other issues that existed in the 100 point system?

Everyone given a copy a ITDS report card for the lower grades. If this was your child, what would you get from your child's learning. What stands out? How does this match the article?

Suriya - corestandards.org is where all the standards live and this is where the explanations live for all the buckets on the report cards. This is a great place to go to and learn more about what is covered in each domain. The feedback from the teacher will also give more information about the score as well.

All of these standards are pulled together and collapsed into the main domains on the front page of the report cards. The school has a rubric for each of the smaller pieces on the site and how they come up with the 1-4 scores for the report cards.

Q: Do they have a similar rubric for the Homeroom standards?

A: That is not as extensive and is more subjective. There is some general guidance and it is still a process with the teachers and leadership to find the right balance.

Handed out an overview of a sampling of report cards over various years: First page is for preschool, last page 8th grade with letter conversion for high school transcript. Also a page for 7th grade where the 1-4 is starting to be converted to number grades for transcript.

Homework is either review or time for them to read. Other times, homework is something that a student didn't finish in class. Math homework is all design with Eureka to reinforce what was taught - it isn't new content. Homework is a practice and reinforcement and therefore not a big part of their grade. That is also because of equity and the fact that not everyone has the same situation to complete homework. Students are evaluated on their work in class. If it is weighted it shouldn't be more than 10% because we don't want to weight kids who don't have the same opportunities. But, not doing homework and the reasons for that could affect integrity grade. Most high schools are also switching to only counting homework at 10% for the same reasons.

Classwork as kids get into middle school gets more complex and therefore there is less homework because it is harder to go over at home. Lower school concepts have more homework because the reinforcement is needed more and it is easier to go over those concepts at home consistently.

Q: Alignment between ITDS and DCPS grading.

A: ITDS includes the grading scale on the transcript so it can be taken into account during the high school placement process. So far it hasn't been a problem with students getting into select schools with the track record.

Q: Why are there differences between the range for a B and the range for an A.

A: We can definitely take a look at that.