

**Inspired Families Association
May 13 2015**

1. Welcome from Kalena Clarke, IFA president

2. Sally Hobbaugh, ANC member for Single-Member District that includes school

Next week the ANC meeting will be at the school in the MPR. May 21st, 7pm. DPR will be there to talk about renovations to the Edgewood Rec Center and field.

Renovations are expected to start in March 2016. They have not at this point sought input from the neighborhood, but Sally hopes that the meeting on the 21st will be an opportunity for neighbors (and us!) to tell DPR what we'd like to see in the renovations. Sally has created a survey for neighbors that she is happy to share with us if we want to fill it out. She will pass along the responses to DPR.

May 30, 1-6pm: block party in the 200 block of Douglas St NE. There will be crafts for kids, a potluck, and construction of Little Free Libraries for the neighborhood.

Allison Acosta said that the IFA plans to have a book drive to collect books for the Little Free Libraries.

3. ELECTIONS

Candidate statements and voting.

4. IFA Year in Review

a. Fundraising Committee (Lucy Newton, Merry Alderman, Ana Rodriguez):

Although the school accountant is still reconciling everything, it looks like after expenses the school will have just under \$80k to spend on a music program next year. We hope that we can plan for more year-round giving next year, including the Combined Federal Campaign and promotion of Razoo pages year round. We also are interested in feedback from others about ways to improve for next year.

Q: how many families participated? A (from Lucy): hard to know for sure, in part because of the way Razoo tracks information; we are working on how to better track this in the future.

Q: does school get money from foundations? A (from Deborah Williams): yes. we got about \$175k in grants last year. We apply, but in many cases we are not as attractive to donors because the percentage of low-income students is too low (only 16%).

In addition to fundraising for the school, we also raised money for the IFA, primarily through Giving Tuesday in November, which raised around \$4000 for the IFA. IFA used that money to pay for social events, staff appreciation, and chess club.

b. Social Committee (Kalena Clarke):

Events: fall festival, spring family fun day, monthly coffees, giving drive kickoff party

Q: should we consider separate social events for middle and lower school, especially as school grows? Some discussion, including ideas for middle schoolers helping to run things or participating in other ways (like with chili cookoff).

c. Recruitment Committee (Jo Olexy):

Round one of the lottery is over. Most applicants came from Ward 5, followed by Wards 4 and 1. Word of mouth is really key. We are especially focused on getting more applicants in the middle school grades. Deborah

Deborah Williams: with the exception of the leading class (7th), which we are keeping small on purpose, we have full enrollment for next year. All classes full.

Q: what is the plan for increasing diversity in the student body?

Lots of discussion, including the need for transportation options (we will reapply for the bus route from the metro), the need for families of color to be on the recruitment committee and to staff the events. Deborah Williams said that the school is also looking at its marketing materials.

Discussion of communications with families: do people prefer facebook, emails (and, if so, from whom? teachers? admin? room parents?), flyers, paper in backpacks? Various people preferred different methods of communication; consensus seemed to be that utilizing all forms of communication was best in order to reach everyone.

d. Staff Appreciation Committee:

Deborah Williams expressed the staff's great enthusiasm for the teacher appreciation lunches and the teacher appreciation week events. She thanked all the families, on behalf of the staff.

Farewell from Kalena Clarke, IFA president. She looks forward to next year as she transitions off the IFA board. Deborah thanked Kalena for all her work over the last four years.

5. Announcement of winners of elections:

- **President - Lucy Newton** (Students: Naia Albert, rising 2nd grade, and Helen Albert, rising K)
- **Vice President - Carmen Rottenberg** (Students: Samantha Perkins, rising 4th grade, Isaac Perkins, rising 2nd grade, and Luke Perkins, rising PK4)
- **Secretary - Mary Pitts** (Students: Hatcher and Lavinia Pitts, both rising K)
- **Treasurer - Stephen Sipos** (Student: David Sipos, rising 4th grade)
- **At-Large Members** (5 seats)-
 - **Sandrine Chebou-Webb** (Student: Zamir Chebou-Webb, rising 2nd grade)
 - **Yashika P. Okon** (Students: Elijah Okon, rising 4th grade, and Ezra Okon, rising K)
 - **Johanna Olexy** (Students: Jackson Olexy, rising 2nd grade, and Austin Olexy, rising PS3)
 - **Ana Celia Rodriguez** (Students: Jasmine Reid, rising 7th grade, and Le'Ana Jenkins, rising K)
 - **Sherrita Rogers** (Students: Simone Rogers, rising 4th grade, Caleb Rogers, rising 2nd grade, and Aaron Rogers, rising PS3)

6. Updates from Head of School, Deborah Williams

Board of Directors of the school meets 5/18. At that meeting they hope to finalize the parent reps on the Board. There were five applicants; Board met with them over the last few months. Hope to be able to share information next week.

Starting a school is hard. Thank you to all of you for your support over the years, and especially Kalena, who has been working with us from day one.

Q: How is staff recruitment going for fall? A: very well. We have some very experienced candidates. We hope to send information out soon about staffing for next year.

Q: Can you update us on where the fellows end up working at the end of their fellowships? We'd love to know. A: yes!

Q: Any updates on the music program? A: The plans are not finalized yet. We were talking with Education Through Music, but we aren't sure that will work out for us. We will be hiring a full-time music teacher as part of the staff (not a contract with an outside company). We will update you soon.

Q: Is there any more construction? A: yes, construction on bridge to field in back will start next year. A little bit of construction in the Lee space after they vacate (after 2015-16 year) but not much.

Other final announcements:

Zoe will be back June 1.

The Pride Parade is June 13. There is a Cafe Press store for tee shirts, etc.

Submitted by Lucy Newton, secretary, and adopted by the IFA Board, May 20, 2015