

**Friends of Pulaski  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 19, 2014**

The Board meeting was called to order by the President at 7:43 pm.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Scott Suckow  
Ms. Debbie Gibbons  
Mr. James Sowka  
Mr. Bob Fox  
Ms. Laura Stein

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Mr. Ross Crampton  
Ms. Toni Popova

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2014 Board Meeting by James Sowka and seconded by Debbie Gibbons. The motion passed unanimously.

**CHAIR REPORTS**

• **PRESIDENT**

- LSC Update
  - Elections April 7th – FOP will distribute candidate statements to e-list. Candidate forum was held last night before the LSC meeting. 9 parent candidates running for 5 spots. 5 community reps running for 2 spots.
  - Presentation on technology plan. Ms. Natale is working on it.
  - Dr. Bedard presented. Time of year she is reviewed by the LSC.
- Ready to Learn PreK Applications at Pulaski April 3rd 8-11am
- Open Staff Volunteer Coordinator position at Pulaski
- E-rate upgrade starting (1-3 months to complete). Federal program to redo the school's network. Right now the new technology purchased for the school doesn't have enough network capacity to keep up.
- Copiers: School has multiple copiers coming off of contracts. Currently paying a significant amount. Through negotiations with Scott helping, Pulaski will get a couple of new top of the line copiers. One for each building. This will save about 4k per year.
- Columbia College Sustainability Committee. Likely won't get the 3 year grant again. Trying to reduce their offering but even so will be about 90K. Services 100-200 kids. Committee is actively trying to find the money to keep it going. Letter will be sent home to parents of current students in the program to let them know the program may be going away. Hoping the parent group will become active and mobilize to find a solution: funding, grants, tuition based option, etc.

- Thirsty Thursday – Dad’s March 27th 7:30pm at Jack and Ginger’s
  - Parent involvement on school tours – a parent or two to join in on tours to give another perspective. Kate Barthel and Michelle Sherman are helping out with these.
  - Alley Addresses – BCO: Applying decals or painting address numbers on the backs of buildings. Fundraiser for a service. Will charge approximately \$10 to have numbers put on garage. BCO is on board to head up this fundraiser Joy will negotiate the split between BCO and Pulaski as far as funds raised.
- **TREASURER**
    - Reviewed current financials.
    - Charitable giving is from athletic equipment and trash cans.
    - Matching program very successful. 56 donors! And now have 18 monthly donors!
- **FUNDRAISING**
    - Small Cocktail Receptions: Keith and Debbie Gibbons are hosting on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Need a host for April.
    - Looking for a champion to head fundraising for next year. Ross is stepping down.
    - February Match Campaign raised \$4,126. Exceeded the \$3,000 goal.
- **VOLUNTEERS**
    - Recent
      - Family Fitness night a success. Had about a dozen volunteers.
      - Mobile fingerprinting at Pulaski. Think the turnout was around 23. Would like to have this option again. Fingerprints are valid for two years.
    - Upcoming
      - Family Science Night April 9th from 6:00-7:30pm
    - Volunteers needed for in-school Activities requiring fingerprinting
      - Traffic Management (Kiss and Go)
      - Lunch and Recess – Contact Norma Mendez
    - Volunteers needed for in-school activities without background checks:
      - Library Assistance
      - Office Assistance
      - Wednesday Workdays
      - Library Assistance
      - **Teacher Treats – only a few open dates for the rest of the year, grab one**
- **BUSINESS OUTREACH**
    - Recent
      - Shop for Good \$273 check arrived
    - Current

- Degerberg Martial Arts – Offer March 5-21 (paper and now online). Extended til March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Potential
  - **Potbelly repeat** – going to aim for early April for another Potbelly night.
  - **Homemade Pizza Company** – We were asked if we wanted to take part in their teacher appreciation special. The board agreed it was not a good choice this year and we will pursue other option such as Vased Flowers.
  - **Urban Sitter**
    - Have Urban Sitter have a table at Math/Science night? Arts/Culture night? Face Painting? A craft for kids at arts night? Lets sitters meet parents in person. Bob will reach out to Dr. Bedard to have US come to Arts night approved.
    - Discussed helping day of Fun Run as an option as well - could help out with all the parent volunteers who bring little ones along.
    - Offering a promo code for a one time event (May's Thirsty Thursday couples event? See Fun Run notes) or could do promo code for rest of school year. Options are to waive the 1st introduction \$14.99 fee. Or if Pulaski already has a number of memberships she could do a 20% off the monthly membership fee.
    - Offering a gift certificate for Urban Sitter. Could be used as a door prize for the couples Thirsty Thursday?
  - **Boundary** – Won't do Saturdays anymore. Will do a Tuesday night, 4-10 PM, 15% of all sales will go to Pulaski from anyone in restaurant. Will aim for earlier in May for Boundary.
  - **Vased Flowers** – Will see if Vased Flowers is interested in Teacher Appreciation week flowers again this year. Additionally they have offered to run a promo code for Mother's Day for online orders. All walk in orders will count as well towards Pulaski donation.
- Special Events Committee – Have spoken with Kate Barthel about starting up a special events committee. Bridget Brosnan has already agreed to be in charge of a back to school even this summer. Kate and I discussed additional social event ideas such as a father/daughter dance, a mother/son event and a couple of other family events. A committee is going to get a list organized and then tackle finding volunteers to help head up each event. Would be great to get something planned before the end of the year!

- **FUN RUN**

- Planning Committee (Lindsey Barnes, Allison Zaner, Michelle Sherman, Laura Stein)
- Pep Rally Date: May 16th
- Event Date: June 3rd (rain date June 4th)
- Sponsorship deadline: April 11th
- Cultivating corporate sponsors with the help of Joy Pugh
  - BCO is looking VERY promising as a big sponsor but has to vote on an amount at their April board meeting. Fingers crossed!
  - Joy has also provided us with numerous contacts and suggestions in the neighborhood. **THANK YOU JOY!!!!**

- Michelle Sherman spoke with Lorell Marin of Leep Forward. Her daughter is in Pulaski PreK. She donated \$500 and will help contact other local business owners. Michelle has also been in touch with Sports Authority and One Hour Tees.
- Allison Zaner has gotten \$100 from Purple Monkey Playroom and has contacted Bucktown and Corporate Athletico. Additionally, Zaner Group, her husband's company, will be donating.
- Lindsey Barnes has gotten \$250 from Color Wheel Studio and has also been in touch with the BCO.
- Sponsorship levels: \$250, \$500 and \$1000, also seeking a headliner. Sponsors will be listed on banners, tshirts and all email and FB posts.
- Ms. Creswell leading 8th graders on a student-designed logo. This logo will appear on school posters, banners and tshirts.
- Hoping to partner May's Thirsty Thursday event for couples with Lottie's and do sort of a Fun Run kickoff event for parents. Debbie has a contact at Lottie's that we will contact as the date gets closer to see if they will do something similar to the St. Mary's fundraiser they just did (\$40 ticket, \$20 to the school) and all proceeds would go right to the Fun Run. A fun way to get parents involved and excited about the event and raise some extra money for the Fun Run! I will work with Natalie Fox to iron it out. Possible use for Urban Sitter outreach as well.

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Preparing to launch a combined school/FOP newsletter with new Newsletter Volunteer, Anne Dwyer. Newsletter moving in a positive direction now that we have a translator.
- Kat Henry and Sandy Dechant now connected with the 606.

**OPEN MEETING FOR QUESTIONS AND OTHER TOPICS**

- Open Positions: Fundraising, Facilities, possibly Secretary (Toni indicated possibly wanting to do something else)? Elections will be in May. If interested contact Scott.
- Social Events – form a formal committee?

Next Meeting will be April 23, 2014 in the Pulaski library.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at approximately 9:04 PM.