**Pathfinder PTSA General Meeting Minutes**

January 10, 2017 MEETING in the Pathfinder Library

Called to order at 6:30 by Odetta Owen

**Welcome (Odetta Owen)**

**Auction Kick Off (Laura Murray and Ginny Woo)**

* Pathfinder’s “Be A Rock Star!” Auction is on Saturday, March 25th at 5PM at the Hall at Fauntleroy
* Get Early Bird Tickets Starting on January 17th
* Tickets are $60 before February 24th and $65 afterwards.
* You can also be a rock star by attending a group event (signups opened during meeting), donating an item or service, volunteering, or contributing to the Teacher/Staff Ticket Fund to help keep ticket costs low for them to attend.
* For tickets and more information visit the Auction webpages

**Principal’s Report (David Dockendorf)**

* Social-emotional approach update
  + Redesigning discipline policy to be in line with social-emotional health
  + Working to develop discipline rather than punishment
  + Looking at restorative justice approach—David will be learning more to see if it is a fit
* School Tours starting this week!
  + Morning Elementary Tours 1/12, 1/18, 1/24, 2/6, and 2/9 from 8:30 – 10 or 10:30 a.m.
  + Morning Middle School Tours 1/23 and 2/7 from 8:30 – 10 or 10:30 a.m.
  + Evening Elementary 1/31 at 6:30 p.m.
  + Evening 2/2 at 6:30 p.m.
    - Large group in library, visit to Sky Hall, then school tour
      * Parents interested in representing their experience as a Pathfinder parent should get in touch with David
* Budget deficit looming for next school year
  + Plan to cover $74 million and the effect on the school district
    - Worst situation David has ever seen—this is the fault of our state legislators, not the district
    - Details have not been finalized—district is hoping that the legislators will fix the deficit before the end of the session so that these harsh cuts are not implemented
    - David will be working with staff to see how it would look next year
      * Projecting to cut direct school funding by 4%
      * Central Office to be cut by 5.6%
      * Assistant Principals likely to face cut to ½ time
      * Effect on Pathfinder
        + Class size will go up again
        + Bare minimum of staffing—classroom teachers yes, but likely to lose counselor, ½ librarian, PCP providers, etc.
      * If you have questions, please ask David after next week
  + **Action Item**
    - Contact your legislators and tell them to ACT ASAP to fund schools! Good staff that is displaced will need to consider their long-term, and cannot wait forever in case things resolve in time

**Be Smart—a conversation about kids, guns and safety (www.besmartforkids.org)**

Summary:

We must focus on what we, as grownups, need to do to protect children

SMART is an acronym to help.

**S**ecure guns in your homes and vehicles

**M**odel responsible behavior when it comes to guns

**A**sk about unsecured guns in other homes

**R**ecognize the risks of teen suicide

**T**ell your peers to be SMART

More expanded summary of presentation:

**S**ecure guns in your homes and vehicles

Store guns locked, unloaded, and ammunition separately—do not rely on kids to keep themselves safe

**M**odel responsible behavior when it comes to guns

Always point your gun in a safe direction

Treat every firearm as if it is loaded

Be sure of what your target it and what is beyond it

Don’t rely on your gun’s safety

**A**sk about unsecured guns in other homes

Make it part of your general safety discussion

Volunteer information about your home

Use technology—text or email if face-to-face is too uncomfortable

Talk to extended family and caregivers

**R**ecognize some of the risks of teen suicide

Change in mood or behavior

Talking about or wanting to kill themselves, “you’ll be better without me…” etc.

Feelings of hopelessness, shame, or desperation

Increase in aggression

**T**ell your peers to be SMART

Talk to your friends and family to normalize the conversation

Volunteer to lead a SMART presentation

**Meeting adjourned by Odetta Owen at 7:57**

*Minutes submitted by Sigrid Brunet, PTSA Secretary*