

## **PTA February 2014 Minutes**

The February Meeting was held in the school library. The first order of business was to vote on the bylaws.

Amber Dungan, who helped with the revisions of the bylaws, reiterated the fact that every 5 years the PTA bylaws must be revised and submitted for approval to the Virginia state PTA. It is a legal document, and much of the document must remain as is, verbatim. The structure of the organization, the offices of the executive committee, how we vote, and dates of meetings are some examples of what can be changed.

The proposed revisions to the bylaws were posted for the required 30 days on the website with a copy in the office in English, as well as a summary of the proposed revisions in Spanish. In addition, notices were sent through the PTA & parentsprattle listservs and posted in our weekly "This Week at Claremont" in English and Spanish.

There were various questions posed prior to the vote:

- a) It was confirmed that the proposed changes to the bylaws had been made available to the general membership at least one month in advance of the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- b) The definition of the President-elect position was discussed. Due to the difficulties in filling the position of PTA president, the President-elect would allow one to shadow the president in an effort to acquire the necessary training and learning necessary for one year, before taking on the role as President the following year.
- c) It was explained that it would not take another 5 years to make further changes to the bylaws. In fact, changes to the bylaws can be made at any time, as long as the proper procedures are followed, e.g., proposed changes are posted for 30 days before a vote. A Bylaw committee can be established, can make suggestions to change the bylaws, can bring it to the executive committee, and then the proposed changes can be voted on.
- d) There was a question as to why our bylaws do not include a mention of an effort to communicate in Spanish. There is a concern with mandating this in the bylaws because despite the PTA's best efforts, we do not have the resources to ensure that this happens 100% of the time.

30 people voted on the bylaws. 23 voted "yes"; 7 voted "no," and 10 abstained  
2/3 votes needed in order to pass.  
The revisions to the bylaws passed.

In addition, Kara Blank-Gonzalez and Jorge Figueredo agreed to lead a bylaw committee.

The second part of the PTA meeting focused on differentiation. Jessica introduced 3 staff members that gave an overview of each program, including how Claremont delivers each service, the process, and where parents can go for more information, which is available at the Claremont website under the tab called "Programs/Services."

Carol Schaedel discussed Gifted and Talented Services at Claremont.  
Alicia Poulton talked about the ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages)/HILT (High Intensity Language Training) Program.  
Don Clinger gave us an overview of Student Services.

The third part of the PTA meeting addressed the Montessori program moving to Hoffman Boston. Kristin Patterson, a Montessori parent, expressed the groups concerns about the decision being a short-term solution, and informed us that the Montessori parents would be attending the CPI meeting on Wednesday night, 2/5 to further discuss their concerns.

Lilly Mancilla asked for two parent volunteers to attend upcoming CIP and School Board meetings on a regular basis and report back to the Claremont community.

Other news:

The Armchair Fundraiser is underway, with the goal to raise money for ipads to be used in the lower grades.

The Silent Auction is coming up on Saturday, April 5, 2014.

Rich Kelly reported on the monthly budget. We are currently in surplus.