

Franklin Elementary – General PTA Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

- 6:40 - 6:42 **Welcome and Adoption of Agenda**
- 6:42 - 6:50 **Adoption of Minutes**
- 6:50-7:00 **Principals Update** Deanna Sinfield, Principal
Dr. Ashley Benjamin, Vice Principal
- 7:00 - 7:05 **Treasurer’s Report** Erin Einstein Dale
- 7:05 - 7:10 **President’s Report** Megan Hestand, Franklin PTA President
- 7:10- 7:20 **Book Fair Update** Kelli Haas
- 7:20 - 7:25 **Audit Report** Kristina Schauer
VOTE - Approve Audit Report from June 2015-December 31, 2015
- 7:25 - 7:35 **Unfinished Business**
VOTE Proposal to Update Standing Rules - Sean Daly
- 7:35 - 7:40 **New Business**
- 7:40 - 7:45 **Announcements**

Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 16 Science Club “Kelp Man”, 6:30 pm
Nov. 21 Site Governance Meeting, 3:15 pm
Nov. 28 Site Governance Meeting, 3:15 pm
Nov. 30 PS Arts Night, K-2, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Dec. 1 PS Arts Nights, 3-5, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Dec. 12 - 15 Book Fair
Dec. 14 PTA Meeting, 8:30 am, Auditorium

PROPOSED CHANGE TO STANDING RULES REGARDING VOTING PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES

BACKGROUND

As required by its Bylaws, the Franklin Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (Franklin PTA) will periodically seek approval from its general membership prior to the implementation of policies or the expenditure of funds.

- * A vote is required for the annual budget each spring. The budget is ratified at the start of each new school year.
- * Changes to the budget in excess of \$500 currently require ratification by the general membership.

Currently, most votes are conducted by voice or show of hands.

Informed voting and active participation are essential to ensure that decisions are made which reflect the true opinions and desires of our overall membership.

Many members have expressed concerns with the lack of clear and balanced information available prior to important votes. Some have also indicated that they are uncomfortable with voting by a show of hands as it can create an atmosphere where members may feel judged by others.

CONCLUSION

Our sense of school community will be enhanced, and the chance of capturing a vote that truly reflects the wishes and desires of our entire membership will be increased, if all members are provided full information on what they will be voting on and are able to feel completely comfortable when casting their votes.

PROPOSAL

The general membership of Franklin PTA is asked to vote on an amendment to the current Standing Rules, which would require:

I. PAPER BALLOT VOTING

For matters that already require a vote of the general membership, voting shall be conducted by paper ballot when any of the following are involved:

- (1) Expenditures in excess of \$5000 that differ from the budget approved in the spring of the prior school year,
- (2) Any redirection or donation of PTA funds to an outside organization in an amount greater than \$1000, **or**
- (3) Matters of any political nature where either funds **or** the endorsement of the Franklin PTA is solicited.

II. BALANCED INFORMATION & TRANSPARENT NOTICE:

In matters where a vote of the general membership is required, PTA shall provide balanced and impartial information, providing equal time to both oral and written arguments for both viewpoints.

No less than two (2) weeks prior to any scheduled vote, Franklin PTA shall:

- (1) Provide clear written notice, including, but not limited to: the specific nature of the item up for consideration and any associated dollar amount (exact or estimated), **and**

(2) Provide the names, titles and school affiliations of any individuals making oral presentations, **and**

(3) Publish a request for the general membership to present opposing opinions.

Members may also elect to invite an “expert” from the community to present a dissenting opinion at the general meeting prior to a vote. Written materials representing both “for” and “against” views, if submitted to Franklin PTA president, will be distributed together with a detailed meeting agenda as soon as they are available, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the vote.

An equal amount of time shall be allocated for speakers and written commentary for both supporting and opposing viewpoints (if requested) prior to the commencement of a vote.

**** Please note that this proposed change to the Standing Rules DOES NOT change what we vote on; it only clarifies the voting process.***

Respectfully submitted November 2, 2016
by Standing Rules Committee

Sean Daly (Chair)
Lydia Muraro
DeAnne Ozaki
Julie Ginsberg
Jake Wachtel
Rachel Blumberg
Nikki Kolhoff
Payal Sanghrajka