

Minutes CES PTA Monday January 9, 2012

Members Present: Suzanne Blank, Mrs. Breon, Mrs. Slattery, Paul Scott, Kirk Chan Tack, Danielle Hilliard, Judy Gershenson, Sarah Gettier, Vandana Ramulu, Nicole Bena, Micaela Crooks, Lisa Clark, Linda Thomsen, Elaine Thomas, Debra Young

I. CES President

A. Nominations Committee

1. Carried over from the last meeting, there was a motion to elect Vidya Ambrosi, Amy Billups and Stephanie McClellan to the nominations committee, it was seconded and passed

B. Introductions

C. December Minutes were approved

II. Principal's Moments

A. Lego Robotics lead by Mrs. Rosnik, had their event this past Saturday and the teams Did a great job. They will be featured on the morning news and at STEM night.

B. Cougar Day for quarter 2 students (students who met the ROAR objectives) will attend a special pep rally hosted by the National Honors Society at River Hill High School. The cheerleaders will have a special cheer for Roaring with an attitude and the girls basketball team will demonstrate special skills and drills.

1. The first quarter Cougar Day was a Game Day and quarter 3 is yet to be announced

C. There are a lot of school closings and early dismissals coming up. Also, goal setting Student 3rd quarter grades will be done and Parent Teacher Conferences are also around the corner.

D. Valentine's Day

1. A notice will be going out this week reminding parents to avoid sending in candy or other food items with valentines due to many food restrictions/allergies
2. Teachers will be talking with room parents to help narrow options of what should be brought in (though even with this discussion during the winter parties where parents were instructed to send in Winter themed items, Christmas trees/Santa themed things were sent in and some parents were concerned about particular food items sent into classroom)

E. CES will be undergoing some major renovations of its HVAC and plumbing

1. This renovation was originally to be done over the next 2 summers, but there is also a possibility that it will start during Spring Break and be done over the summer until completion—if this is done, areas under construction would be separated from student visited areas and Mrs. Breon is working closely to ensure that students will not be disrupted in their learning activities by any work being done
 - a. The cafeteria stage will not be available during the construction time so the 5th grade Moving on ceremony has been moved to River Hill
 - b. The decision on the timing of the renovation has not yet been made
 - c. There have been similar renovations done to other schools without being disruptive to students and no such issue is anticipated with this work

F. The issue of whether a committee to re-address the County's decision not to Sponsor the CES chorus trip to Philadelphia for the Thanksgiving Parade and music In the Parks was discussed briefly and the administration does not feel that the Central Office will change their mind on this topic as they have quite clearly stated That they will not support this type of activity

1. It was discussed that perhaps it could be readdressed as there is an educational Component to these trips
2. It was pointed out that the educational component compared to the free time

- With family/friends was very small and in the past many students did not return for the judging which was also an issue for the Central Office
3. The administration did not feel that a Committee for this purpose would be very beneficial

III. Treasurer's report

- A. We have about \$46,000 not including about \$2500 in reimbursements that are Pending
- B. There has been little activity since last meeting
- C. There was some discussion about the \$10,000 from the previous year's budget that Was to go to a electronic sign, but instead per administration request was to go for a Postermaker, new bulletin boards and security cameras
 1. The county actually picked up the cost for the security cameras
 2. The quotes for the Poster Maker and Bulletin Boards are in and the bulk of the \$10,000 will be spent for these items
- D. The PTA website has a link to the reimbursement forms which can be filled out and returned with the original receipt to our Treasurer via the PTA mailbox (it's helpful if you send an email or notify him that you are doing so)

IV. Walker door

- A. The question was raised whether the sidewalks in front of the walker door could be Expanded as the area gets very muddy, this did not seem ultimately as an easy task to get accomplished
- B. An issue about children standing looking scared without their parents and the walker Door being closed leaving them unsupervised in some chaos was raised
 1. Some parents were very concerned that children could not be seen as easily from this location compared to the previous one and that children were also getting into the parking lot unattended and in an unsafe manner
 2. It was discussed that the current walker door is the only one that has security cameras and that there have been serious incidents where it was vital to have the video from the cameras to assist in locating a child/parents and that security is comprised to have dismissal from the other location without the video cameras
 3. Mrs. Palich watches very carefully and knows all of the students and their parents
 4. It was discussed it is possible that unattended children had permission from their parents to walk home alone (through signed waivers)
 5. The administration is considering instituting a staggered dismissal from the walker door with children who have permission to walk home alone with special identification so it will be easy to identify who is allowed to walk home alone and who is not
 6. It was suggested to perhaps have a Safety committee to look at this issue
 7. It was suggested to discuss safety issues concerning walking home with students
 8. It was suggested to consider a paid PTA position for monitoring dismissal if it would be of help
 9. The administration says that it looks very carefully at this issue and is continually trying to better the process while keeping students safe and that having security cameras at the walker door is important for security

III. Howard County Delegates Report

- 1) Report from HCPSS (from Linda Wise, Clarissa Evans, and William Ryan):

a) Discussed the Proposed Changes to the Middle School Schedule for Fall 2012. Full report available [http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/8P9URJ7C23F5/\\$file/12%2008%202011%20Middle%20School%20Report%20BR.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/files/8P9URJ7C23F5/$file/12%2008%202011%20Middle%20School%20Report%20BR.pdf)

Summary: The recommended schedule facilitates the transition to the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum and new assessments with their emphasis on disciplinary literacy, addresses the concerns of equity and mobility created by the current varying schedules, and better positions all HCPSS students on the path to college and career readiness. Following are the key features of the recommended schedule.

Each school's master schedule will be developed to include the following:

1. Seven 50-minute periods each day.
2. 150 clock hours of instruction per year in mathematics, science, social studies, and English Language Arts.
3. 37.5 clock hours per year of instruction in health education.
4. 75 clock hours per year of instruction in physical education. Whenever possible, students will be scheduled for physical education every other day for the entire school year.
5. At least 37.5 clock hours per year of instruction in the fine arts (visual art or music). Students who participate in a performing musical arts course (band, orchestra, chorus) are able to meet the fine arts requirement through the instruction they receive in the performing musical arts course. Performing musical arts courses will meet the full school year.
6. At least 37.5 clock hours of Family and Consumer Science and 37.5 clock hours of Technology Education. The Family and Consumer Science and Technology Education courses should be available to interested students.
7. At least 75 clock hours of world language course work (French or Spanish) in grades 6 and 7 for interested students. During the following two school years, the master schedule would be developed to include at least 150 clock hours of world language course work for students in grade 8.
8. COMAR (i.e. Code of Maryland) requirements for Financial Literacy and Careers will be infused so that all students receive the instruction.
9. Inquiry and Innovation modules and G/T instructional seminars. In addition, the Grade 6 G/T Research Course will be taught at all middle schools.
10. Designated time within the school day for teachers to provide explicit and specific mathematics and reading interventions.
11. An opportunity for students to experience a full range of course offerings in all schools based on course and/or staff availability.

12. An infusion of standards in the *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/ Social Studies and Technical Subjects* in all middle school courses.

RECOMMENDATION/FUTURE DIRECTION:

Public Hearing: January 12, 2012

Board Action: January 26, 2012

***** All parents even with children not in middle school who wanted to voice an opinion on the proposed changes or ask questions should try to attend the January 12 meeting as time is running out

2) Report from the Board of Education (from Ellen Giles):

a) Superintendent search ongoing: hope to select a candidate by April and confirm him/her by July 1.

b) 3 BOE seats being contested in this year's elections. Please send any questions for the candidates to office@ptachc.org. Voting occurs during both primary and general elections. Candidates are listed on all ballots since BOE seats are non-political.

3) Report from the Office of the Superintendent (from Patti Caplan):

a) Superintendent to present 2012-2013 budget to BOE on 1/5.

4) PTACHC Committee Reports

a) PTACHC committees (Curriculum, Family Involvement, Legislative, Safety, Wellness, After Prom, Scholarship) are still looking for additional volunteers. Legislative committee is looking for help from January-April. Safety committee is looking for help in planning its April bullying seminar. It was suggested that local PTAs consider having their vice-presidents help with PTACHC committees.

IV. 5th Grade Programming

A. (Radcliffe/Harris) Food on the 15th

The 5th graders have been participating in Food on the 15th for the past 2 months. Karen Radcliffe has done a great job engaging and motivating the students to participate. It's exciting and inspiring how they approach us and ask how they can get involved. It has not only given them the opportunity to give back to the community but also show leadership within CES. To find out more about this wonderful program directed by Julie Rosenthal please visit the website <http://www.foodonthe15th.org>.

B. (Harris) Grassroots

In the spring the 5th graders will make lunches for the 50 residents at the Grassroots shelter. This will be an in class community service project but we will be asking for parent volunteers. Date is still to be determine.

C.(Fazzari/True) Spring Fling -- Pie-A-Fifth Grader

The co-chairs of this committee are Linda Fazzari, lindafazzari@gmail.com and Kathy True, kandktrue@aol.com. Could the Spring Fling Committee please make note of this and add the contacts to their committee.

D.Moving On

The "Moving On" Ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 7 at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Breon is managing the reservation at River Hill High School. The date may change, dependent on inclement weather days. As of today, there are no conflicts with other year-end activities at RHHS, CMS or CES.

E.(Ostroff) School's Out

The second quarter School's Out activity has been planned for Monday, January 16th. As of today, we have had an absolutely overwhelming response of half the class -- 50 students -- wanting to attend and have closed registration. We are working on accommodating this amazing response. Thank you to 5th grade families for labeling their registration and sending it in to the front office on time! 5th Grade has amazing class spirit!

F.(Chairs/Ortiz/Patel) Cultural Arts Artist in Residence

We would like to coordinate with 5th grade teachers and cultural arts so that the students can begin thinking about the theme of the class gift mural so that information can be coordinated with the artist in residence. For example, they could choose the Village of River Hill, the Chesapeake Bay, CES, a Cougar Habitat -- or whatever wonderful idea they come up with and vote on. Each student will contribute to this mural as part of the artist in residence experience. What week in February will the artist be in residence?

-The administration clarified that as they have already discussed using a theme that incorporated the Chesapeake Bay as the 5th graders are involved in a lot of projects about the Bay and that the resident artist week would be the first week of February

G.(Chairs/Harris) Spirit Days

We would like to thank Dana Hamer for designing such a cool t-shirt for our 5th graders! The 5th graders developed slogans to vote on, and voted on color and slogan. The slogan chosen was Eat, Sleep, 5th Grade and the color is a vibrant, bright aqua. 5th Grade spirit days are the first Friday of the month and the first two received a great response! Students are encouraged to wear their t-shirts for easy identification on field trips and School's Out gatherings.

V. Box Tops for Education

- A. There is a new Box Top Collection Box
- B. Box tops can be turned in at anytime, but as suggested at a previous meeting those Who turn in the most Box Tops during the next announced collection time coming Up may receive a prize

VI. After School Programming

- A. Registration for the Winter session began January 2 and classes will start January 30
- B. There are 12 programs being offered with 6 taught by CES teachers and 6 by outside vendors
- C. As of January 6, there were 35 registrations
- D. The registration deadline is January 24
- E. It is too early to know if there will be cancellation due to low turn out
- F. There will be a Drama club offering to start March 21 and the Drama Club will start after the Winter session registration ends
- G. They are still in the process of trying to hire a paid Monitor for the 4-5pm time and there is a person who has expressed interest in the position

- H. There was discussion about whether or not particular programs should be advertised more as there is pressure from vendors to “sell” their program
1. It was discussed that for more publicity the PTA bulletin board could be used to have fliers about offerings
 2. It was suggested that more info could be placed on the PTA website with links to the vendors websites
 3. Vendors are not allowed to send home fliers directly through school folders
 4. Most present did not feel it was necessary to send anymore info home as long as the course offerings handout had links for more information for people interested and that the PTA website had links
 5. It was also suggested that photos of the students participating in the classes could part of our email newsletters to foster some interest in the programs
 6. As a side note, the PTA insurance company does not cover sports, so no sports programs are sponsored as afterschool programs

VII. Membership

- A. Entertainment books were distributed to some staff who were thrilled

VIII. Go Green Committee

1) Go-Green Committee Ideas for Classroom Parties: (Thanks Andrea, Suzanne & Stephanie!) Andrea continues to work to reduce waste at classroom parties. She announced the effort via PTA email and newsletter prior to our Halloween and Winter parties, and she has emailed the teachers and all but a few room parents, announcing the effort and urging them to lead their individual classrooms in an effort to be green. (Note that Andrea is still following up with two teachers to obtain room parents’ email addresses so that she may notify them.) Andrea will continue to remind parents, teachers and room parents of our environmentally friendly recommendations prior to each remaining party this year. It is our hope that these efforts will result in a new “culture” of green holiday parties that will continue into future years, with minimal effort. Thanks to Suzanne and Stephanie for helping promote these ideas via PTA announcement and newsletter.

2) Green Teachers (Thanks Mrs. Becker & Mr. Schwab!)

a) Trash weighing to start soon. There are student reps for Grades 3-5 who will assist. Go-Green committee is encouraging parents to help with trash weighing at lunchtimes on Wednesdays.

b) Garden planting being planned by Mr. Schwab.

3) Green Pictures for the Yearbook: (Thanks Deb & Lisa!)a) Teachers will let us know when Green activities are being done (e.g. weighing trash, planting the garden) so Yearbook Committee can take pictures.

b) Thanks to Yearbook Committee for taking pictures of other Green events J.

Meeting adjourned

