

Minutes CES PTA Monday October 10th, 2011

Members Present: Suzanne Blank, Paul Scott, Nikki Bena, Kirk Chan Tack, Mrs. Slattery, Lori Minnick, Beth Anna Varson, Nadia Hansel, Linda Thomsen, Pradeep Ramulu

I. CES President

- A. Minutes could not be approved as there was not a quorum present to have a vote
- B. Back to school Picnic was a very successful.
- C. Thanks to Danielle Hilliard and Vidya Ambrosi; Danielle took over back-to-school folders and Vidya checked President's email while Suzanne was away

II. Cultural Arts Committee

- A. Had previously asked for increased budget monies to have a Visual Artist in residence this year and have a large mural be their project. It was suggested to see if the 5th grade gift could incorporate the mural and help offset the cost. The 5th grade has pledged \$1000 for the Artist in Residence program. This will go toward framing the mural (\$500) and paying for one day of the residence (\$360). The remainder of the money will be used to get a plaque that says it is a gift from the class of 2011.
- B. The first assembly was today. Kathleen Jacobs, the puppet lady came to talk about recycling.
- C. The next assembly will be Dec. 15th
- D. The artist in residency program will be the week of February 6-10th
- E. The performers of the last two assemblies has not been set

III. Assistant Principal Mrs. Slattery

- A. Back to school night went well
- F. Cultural arts held an assembly today with recycled puppets .
- G. Upcoming school closures are on 10/21 and 11/4
- H. For Halloween this year there will be a parade on Halloween with party and pumpkin decorating on the Friday before for G3-5
- I. Parent Teacher Conferences will be the middle of November so look out for pick a time announcements
- J. Team leaders really excited about having \$500 in monies which allows for bringing in the fossil program and mobile mining.

IV. Treasurer's report

- A. Cougar patron program was budgeted for \$5000 in revenues, and is currently at \$5745
- B. Membership dues are just below last year
- C. Spirit wear put out more money for T-shirts then has come in, but this should return at some point (balance out)
- D. 9 teachers took advantage of individual allowances for staff (up to \$140), more money still left to be spent and staff should be encouraged to use the funds
- E. Paid first round of dues and there is a healthy balance

V. Howard County Delegates Report

- A. The Board of Education open hearing is tomorrow (October 11) regarding changing the structure of the Board from 7 at-large members to 5 at-large and 2 appointed members
- B. At large members must be from the district and the left over spots would be appointed (to increase diversity)
- C. At the PTAC meeting, they didn't agree with this idea about having appointed positions, and on October 11, at the George Howard Building, they will have an

open microphone where individuals could express their opinions if they disagree, but this would be on an individual basis as the County PTA has already expressed their view in opposition to this proposal

- D. It was suggested that PTAC last year supported the Race to Nowhere, which was an American Teacher Documentary and it was suggested that it could be supported again
- E. Today, is the first day of the coat drive. An email went out in the newsletter. It will carry on for 3 weeks. It would be helpful if could have an announcement to the kids in the afternoon to bring in old coats.

VI. Spirit Wear

- A. Spirit wear order has been placed and should be in by end of month
- B. Items are priced not as a fundraiser.
- C. Not all of the samples were sold so some are left over. Question raised as to where items could be sold to finish selling them. Suggestions were made to sell during conference time or during family fun nights to make up the money that was spent on purchasing them
- D. Discussed magnets for cars with Ms. Breon and a sample will be ordered first. Then, 250 magnets will be ordered to start and parents could order them and they could be dispensed immediately. They cost \$1.65 each if buy 250 and perhaps we could sell a bit higher. More magnets could be ordered if sold out. It was suggested to maybe charge 1/\$3 and 2/\$5.

VII. After School Programming

- A. After school program offerings were summarized
- B. Currently we have 4 quarters, but it might be easier to do 2 semesters instead
- C. For the Fall there were 10 classes offered, but only 8 classes actually ran, because some did not meet the minimal enrollment
- D. Most of the offerings were on Monday and Tuesday, with one class each on Wednesday and Thursday
- E. Mrs. Van Esseltine is teaching 2 classes. All other teachers are from outside.
- F. Chess was very popular and went over enrollment
- G. PTA fee per student is \$15 for outside vendor and \$10 per CES staff
- H. Starting a new Session in October/November which will have 8 offerings. Teachers want enrollment open until last day possible, but this has to be balanced by the need to tell parents in advance if the class will be canceled.
- I. There needs to be a volunteer for each classroom. They are struggling to get parent volunteers in the classroom even with reduced or free tuition.
- J. Trying to reduce paper usage by having all the classes listed on the front/back of one piece of paper and having people go to the website to print out the form.
- K. The new session of classes is following first set of classes, so they will have different start dates and stop dates and different due dates for payment and for registration. This information should be clarified in the Newsletter.

VIII. Staff Appreciation

- A. The lunchroom was decorated today
- B. Our committee continues to make the lounge festive each month and provide small treats for the staff.
- C. Next Wednesday, October 19th we will hold a Pumpkin Day Snack Break for the staff. We'll have hot cider and a variety of pumpkin breads, muffins, cookies and cakes set out for the staff during their lunch hours. The staff will be notified of it via email at the beginning of next week.
- D. At the Parent Teacher conferences, something will be prepared for the Staff

IX. Go Green

- A. Cultural Arts: (Thanks Andrea, Linette, Lorraine, and Mrs. Slattery!)
Recycling Cultural Arts Assembly is scheduled for Monday 10th October (split shows: 9.30am & 2.30pm).
- B. Green Presentation: (Thanks Andrea and Mrs. Slattery!)
Andrea and Mrs. Slattery have coordinated a Green Presentation (Speaker: Alicia Moore, Howard County Recycling Coordinator for Schools) on Wednesday, November 30, during each grade's lunch period.
- C. Go-Green Committee Ideas for Classroom Parties: (Thanks Andrea!)
Andrea will be working closely with school and room parents to help reduce waste at classroom parties.
- D. Reflections Committee helping encourage entries with Green themes (Thanks Mike & Kathy!)
 - 1. This year's theme is "Diversity Means."
 - 2. Reflections announcements (flier, newsletter) will include, "The Go-Green committee would like to recognize students who submit an entry with a Go-Green component (e.g. reducing waste, saving energy). Be sure to indicate if you would like your entry to be considered."
 - 3. Reflections co-chairs to identify Green entries.
 - 4. Go Green Committee will prepare certificates for Green entries to distribute at the Reflections Ceremony.
- E. Green Teachers (Thanks Mrs. Becker & Mr. Schwab!)
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. Garden planting being planned by Mr. Schwab.
 - 3. Green Table at Back-to-School Nights provided information as well as additional options (e.g. wrap-n-mat, reusable containers) to help reduce lunchtime waste.
- F. Green Pictures for the Yearbook: (Thanks Deb & Lisa!)
 - 1. Teachers will let us know when Green activities are being done (e.g. weighing trash, planting the garden) so Yearbook Committee can take pictures.
 - 2. Thanks also to Yearbook Committee for taking pictures of other Green events, e.g. Recycling Cultural Arts Assembly (Monday 10/10), Green Presentation (Wednesday 11/30).

X. Spring Fling

- E. The Goal last year was to repeat the year before so the ride contracts were the same, and only some entertainers were different
- F. The question this year is what is the primary goal for the event? From the standpoint of our budget, the primary purpose doesn't need to be a fundraiser (though would be nice if it made a little money. If the goal is a fun event we could do some things differently.
- G. It has been running like community service with lots of fundraising at same time. Centennial runs it like a fundraiser, have families sponsoring each ride/event/etc. Have families donating a lot of things in silent auction like sports tickets, time shares, etc.
- H. The question is whether we really need to go after the fundraising side of it or not? Now is the time to re-engineer the nature of the event.
- I. 2 years ago the ride contract doubled, so up to \$8500 for big country and they brought in moon bounces, rides, climbing wall; mostly covered by ticket/bracelet sale & people who man booths. They left some things short last year so we have credit for services this year.
- J. We get about \$5000 in sponsorship money

- K. Big country sponsors boardwalk games and some like tootsie roll and fish tree and pie 5th grader sponsored by PTA
- L. Only person paid amongst entertainers was DJ, all the rest are free. Just hard to find people willing to donate time for free.
- M. Would like to bring in a lot of games inside. Would like to get to National Honor Society to get an hour commitment so that high schoolers will get hours of credit if they participate. Last year was too late to just go and approach the HS kids only 1 month in advance.
- N. Concessions take a lot of volunteers and maybe could farm out to others to sell and keep profits. Need to get coolers, materials, volunteers, etc. There may be issues with having others use kitchen. Might be better if they brought a truck.
- O. Potential dates are Saturday April 28th, and May 19th starts getting late conflicts with lots of Communion
- P. There was some Ticket and bracelet confusion. Maybe we can get an all you can ride and play bracelet, so there is less confusion. There was a question if should raise price of bracelet; It was suggested to have one all-inclusive bracelet.
- Q. Can have all-game bracelet but kids monopolize that – i.e. face paint all day
- R. Maybe have parent survey using survey monkey as long as keep # qns short; Who would distribute the survey? Perhaps we could use the email list to help with distribution.
- S. Topic came up again if this is a fundraiser or community outreach. Not supposed to be carrying budget, so not critical to raise lots of funds. General feeling that should not be aggressively trying to raise funds. Even getting items for baskets took a lot of effort.
- T. Good idea to get things from parents and merchants to silent auction. Can silent auction items that might be donated from Disney or Kings Dominion or Dogtopia.
- U. Will put together survey and run it by Suzanne.

XI. Reflections

- A. Attended PTACHC Reflections Meeting
- B. Compiled information for Reflections participants to be included on the CES PTA website
- C. Put Reflections announcement in weekly CES PTA newsletter
- D. Requested approval from Mrs. Breon on Reflections flyer to send home with the students, and waiting on her reply
- E. Started getting judges
- F. For next month
 - 1. Advertise program directly to students through flyer, morning announcements, classroom presentations, homeroom teachers or art/music teachers (requested input from Mrs. Breon as to which is preferred)
 - 2. Finish getting judges
 - 3. Schedule reception for CES Reflections participants in December
 - 4. Find places in school/local business to display projects after judging.

XII.Box Tops for Education

- A. Letters, collection sheets and baggies were sent home October 7th
- B. We are asking families to send in their box tops by October 20th to be eligible for a drawing for a prize

XIII. Family Fun Nights

- A. Olympic Night is on November 3rd and Mr. Decker said that there will be no equipment to Move and we got a list for volunteers

XIV. Membership

- A. We have 371 members + 52 staff for a total of 423 members so far.

XV. Development/Fundraising

- A. Cougar Patron has \$5745 as of today
- B. Entertainment books—the sale is extended until October 14th and to date 130 books have been sold which is \$1950 in profit for the PTA. We have had the same amount of books returned with about 100 books outstanding. If teachers could remind students this week to return the book or payment for the book (\$30 to the CES PTA), that would be great. We still have lots of prizes to give away.

XVI. Fifth Grade Programmin

- A. 5th Grade Programming is off to an enthusiastic start! We met with school administrative and 5th grade staff to go over activities for the year and then committees met as a group to plan out the year and allocate budget. Follow-up meetings will occur.
- B. 70% of families have returned their forms and contributions. During the committee meeting, we supported a donation of \$1,000 to Cultural Arts for the 5th Grade Artist in Residence in conjunction with the class gift of a felted mural, which every 5th grader will contribute to artistically. It is our understanding and hope that the additional funding from the 5th grade committee will enable 5 sessions/days with the artist as well as support any necessary framing/display needs. The committee chairperson for gifts is also pursuing possible grant funding to support this effort.
- C. At the committee meeting, plans were also made for the 5th grade service project, which will be making sandwiches for a local non-profit organization for distribution. This will be done during school time with each 5th grade student participating. Plans are in place to protect students with food allergies and there is an open dialogue with those families.
- D. The 5th Grade Class voted on theme and color for their t-shirts. Each class submitted two entries. The entry with the most votes was "Eat, Sleep 5th Grade" in a teal blue. Dana Hamer is preparing them and we anticipate distribution in early November.
- E. Two School's Out Activities are being planned for late Fall/early winter: Cosmic Bowling and Ice Skating. Dates to be announced shortly.
- F. We are looking forward to a fun and meaningful year

No quorum – can't move to adjourn the meeting formally