

Minute CES PTA September, 2011 meeting

Members present: , Mrs. Breon, Mrs. Slattery, Kirk Chan-Tack, , Vandana Ramulu, Judi Gershenson, Paul Scott, Suzanne Blanks, Mrs. Rosnick, Jeff and Kim Gross, January Saliu, Sophia Lin, Katie Muwowo, Nikki Bend, Tejal Gambhir, Stephanie McClellan, Brian, Barn, Danille Hilliard, Sarah Gettier, Felicia Brown, Vidya Ambrosi, Lisa Clark, Linette Ortiz

I. Welcome/ Call to Order/Introductions

II. CES PTA President

- A. Minutes from the last meeting 6/11 were approved
- B. The PTA books were audited over the summer and were good.

III. Principal's Moments

- A. Enrollment seems to be steady now, and the administration does not anticipate any major changes
 1. There are 522 students [78 KG, 65 1st, 86 2nd, 105 in 3rd, 94 in 4th, and 98 in 5th]
 2. KG qualified for an additional teacher before school started to make 4 KG classes
 3. First grade would need 73 students to qualify for an additional teacher, and this is unlikely with CES way down on the need list
- B. Volunteer luncheon is this Wednesday
- C. Back to School Nights
 1. Monday will be K-2nd and Tuesday 3rd-5th
 2. GT presentation will begin from 6-6:45
 3. There will be a welcome at 6:45 and then grade level presentations and classroom visits between 7-8
 4. Related Arts will have a video presentation this year
- D. KG class assignment process changed this year
 1. Students came in assigned to a color group and then after assessments done and the students had interacted with all of the teachers, classroom placement was made to best enhance instructional groupings
 2. The process worked well and the students transitioned nicely
 3. The assessments offered for students before school started yielded 28 students who were tested out of 78
 4. Other schools have done this type of class assignment like Manor Woods
 5. Numbers fluctuate a lot in KG up to the date school starts and staffing potentially can change at the last minute and into the new school year
- D. Walker Door Moved this Year for Student Safety
 1. The Walker door procedure was carefully studied over the summer and there were issues identified relating to students going into the RHHS parking lot to meet parents unattended, going onto the playground unsupervised and with different staff releasing students it was very

stressful on the staff to ensure each student was released to the proper adult in a safe manner

2. The new walker door location has a Security Camera
 3. At the new location, adults must come down to the door and so students walking into the parking lot unattended is less of an issue
 4. Older students who have parent permission to walk home alone, have to have a permission slip signed to do so and there is a list of those who are allowed to do this
 5. Mrs. Palich who knows most of the students is at the door for afternoon dismissal
 6. The administration is continually trying to improve the process and make it the safest for the students
 7. A concern was raised about having dogs near the dismissal door which is a congested area where there are students/adults who may be afraid of dogs or there is potential for aggression between dogs or dogs/students exists and the current policy that dogs/pets in general are not to be brought to the walker door and are to be kept in the parking lot or further away was stated and that there may be signs posted in the future to this effect or further email notices to reiterate this
 8. It was brought up if there was a Safety committee established for the School that there could be further parent involvement in examining these issues further
- E. Once a quarter, ½ an hour before the PTA meeting there will be a chance to go to the administration. The first such session with refreshments was held tonight

IV. Budget Update

- A. Revenues have come in from the Cougar Patrons and Membership Dues. Spirit Wear which has not completed its sales yet is currently in a deficit. Major expenditures so far have been for the Back to School Picnic, Class Enrichment Allowance and Teachers Working lunch

V. Staff Liason Report

- A. Beginning in October, newsletters by grade will be posted on the CES website

VI. PTAHC Delegate Report

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

- a) Family Portal for secondary schools should be activated in the next 2 weeks. Plans are underway for Family Portal to be piloted in elementary schools later this school year.
- b) HCPSS will send an email with Howard County Emergency system opt-in option for anyone interested in signing up for texts/emails from the county's Office of Emergency Management.

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

- a) <http://www.hcpss.org/board/> - encouraged anyone interested to attend meetings, review agenda (<http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/hcpssmd/Board.nsf/public>). Meetings are held 4pm every Thursday, and can be viewed on cable (Comcast 95 and Verizon 42). Agenda is available online the Tuesday before each meeting so viewers can see topics that they may be interested in hearing more about.

- b) Redistricting plans were presented in the Feasibility Study in June 2011. The Attendance Area Committee will meet between June and August. Regional meetings, Public Hearings and Work Sessions will occur between September and November. The Board of Education will meet in November 2011 to vote on redistricting changes for August 2012 (http://www.hcpss.org/boundarylines/faq_aaap.shtml). Areas being considered are in southeast and western parts of the county.
- c) New superintendent search to begin later in the fall.

3) PTACHC Budget and Committee Reports

- a) Budget was approved.
- b) All of the committees (Curriculum, Family Involvement, Legislative, Safety, Wellness, After Prom, Reflections, Scholarship) are looking for additional volunteers.
- c) Wellness committee (wellness@ptachc.org): Family Farm Walk on 9/17 (8-9.30am) at Clark Elioak's farm. Also, HCPSS' wellness policy (http://www.hcpss.org/board/policies/9090_070110.pdf) is up for review and Wellness Committee plans to discuss and provide comments to HCPSS.
- d) Curriculum committee (curriculum@ptachc.org) is planning a Technology Open House for Fall 2011 and is requesting feedback from teachers and/or parents with this expertise.
- e) Safety committee (safety@ptachc.org) is planning a Bullying symposium for Spring 2012 and is requesting feedback from teachers, counselors, and/or parents with this expertise.

4) School Improvement Team (SIT)

Each school should have a parent representative on its SIT (School Improvement Plan; http://ces.hcpss.org/08FF6845-0119EC4E.0/CES_SIP_Snapshot.pdf).

5) Other

- a) Monday, Sept. 26 – Reflections Chair meeting at ARL 7 pm
- b) Thur. Oct. 13 - BOE members meets with PTA Presidents and CAC (7:30 pm at the BOE)
- c) Local PTAs are encouraged to bringing ideas to be reviewed, discussed, or put forth to future meetings (e.g. elementary school specific ideas).
- d) PTACHC plans to establish more multi-cultural partnerships this year, e.g. Korean Group, Black Student Achievement Program, Connectiones'.
- e) Local Leadership Resources: Internet Essentials From Comcast (<http://www.pta.org/4766.htm>) National PTA® presents a new innovative opportunity from Comcast®. Internet Essentials provides affordable Internet service to households with children who receive free school lunches under the National School Lunch Program. Families who participate in the program will receive the following:
- Affordable Internet at \$9.95/month + tax. No price increases, activation fees, nor equipment rental fees.
 - A low cost computer, available for \$149.99 + tax
 - Free Internet training
- 1) **ACQUIRE MATERIALS:** Assist with the distribution of Internet Essentials information and materials to those you serve. To order these materials, please visit the Internet Essentials Partners Portal to register your PTA® chapter as an Internet Essentials partner.
- 2) **HELP SPREAD THE WORD:** Actively spread the word and help encourage participation in the Internet Essentials program. For example, you can:
- Share information about Internet Essentials on by posting on your website, promoting it in newsletters, hanging posters in local club sites, distributing brochures through e-mail distribution or word-of-mouth with board, staff members, and volunteers, and attending local Internet Essentials launch events.
 - Reach out to your local school districts, school principals and other community partners.
 - Use your social media outlets to spread the word to your constituents.
 - Author "Letters to the Editor" in local papers.

3) ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION: Help kids in your schools who you think might qualify for Internet Essentials by signing up at InternetEssentials.com.

6) There are redistricting meetings being held in the County for the Western/Southwestern districts only—the REDISTRICTING DOES **NOT** AFFECT OUR AREA/SCHOOL

7) The County Budget seems to be slated more towards the highschools so if there are ideas of programs for elementary schools pass them onto our delegates (suggestion about having a program on Safety addressing Strangers was mentioned)

VII. Committee Reports

A. Membership:

1. To date have received 319 memberships (some single, some double memberships) plus 45 Teacher/staff memberships. Don't know what percentage of total this is, because I do not have a complete list of families or staff members.

B. Staff Appreciation Committee Report

1. The PTA welcomed the staff back to CES with our annual Staff Luncheon on August 23rd. Unlike previous years, the lunch was held at CES in the cafeteria to accommodate the staff's all-day training needs this year. The committee purchased sandwiches and solicited donations of salads, sides, and desserts from last year's committee members. Many thanks to all the families that provided such wonderful food for the staff! The event was very well attended and enjoyed by all!
2. We have decorated the staff lounge for September. We will be asking for volunteers to help decorate it and provide occasional snacks for the staff for the remaining months of the year.
3. Our next major event is the Staff Dinner during conferences in November (Monday November 21, 2011).

B. After school Programming

1. Sign ups are going slow, with only chess full so the deadline has been extended

C. Communication

1. Get emails to cesptanews@yahoo.com by 9pm on Wednesdays for the message to go out on Thursday
2. All messages must have approval from the CES president

D. Cultural Arts

1. This year they are looking into having a Visual Artist in Residence
2. The artist in residence has been done for the 5th grade annually in years past
3. This year's visual artist has 2 options
 - a. 4 sessions with each student making a bowl to take home
 - b. 6 sessions with each student contributing to a mural that would be given to the school to keep
 - c. They would like to go with the mural idea, but the cost for this is more
4. The visual artist fees are higher than for musician resident artist fees and the additional sessions are also higher resulting in a need for an additional \$800
6. They are looking into reducing costs through various means
7. It was suggested that they should talk to the 5th grade planning committee at their upcoming meeting and that maybe the 5th grade could use this mural as their class gift and offset this cost
8. It was decided to further discuss this at the next meeting after input from the 5th grade planning committee

E. Development

1. Cougar Patron: To date we have collected \$4500 in CP donations. Very nice start.
 - a. Originally, a board to recognize all of the patrons was being posted as the total numbers of patrons was small. Now, that the program has grown and is the main fundraiser, and there is great difficulty and cost associated with posting the multitudes of names and having it up to date, it was decided not to post all of the patrons, but to send a thank you note and have the patrons listed in an upcoming newsletter and the Board from last year will be taken down
2. Fundraising: Because of our favorable financial situation, we have decided to just have one simple fundraiser this year - The Entertainment Book. Books were delivered to school today, they will be bagged and sent home with Y&O kids next Monday, September 19th. There will be two turn-in days for kids to receive prizes, the first one is Friday, Sept. 23 and second one is Tues. Oct 4.

F. Directory

1. 333 students listed, but still missing close to 200 students
2. There will be a big push to sign up during Back to School Nights including a list of students who have registered currently
3. They deadline for registration for this may be extended
4. The middle school directory has a cross reference page with parent names that do not match student names published and it was suggested to consider doing so for the CES directory

G. Report from 5th Grade Planning

1. The 5th Grade Planning Committee started off the school year with a "school's out" activity -- a pool party attended by more than a third of the class, which because of it being scheduled on a day where most families

were preparing for the hurricane, was a terrific response. Water balloon toss, games, swim fun, ice pops, and families getting reacquainted and meeting new and old friends were the highlights. Flyers have been distributed and we are receiving positive and supportive responses for participation and volunteerism, and are currently filling subcommittee chairs. The 5th grade planning committee chairs will meet with Mrs. Harvey on 9/14 and select subcommittees will meet with Mrs. Breon, per her request, after all 5th grade planning sub committee and committee chairs meet in late September. We look forward to a fun year!

H. Fall School Supplies

1. Distribution of the boxes went very smoothly thanks to Mrs. Walters and her staff!
2. Some of the filler paper was defective and the supplier has already shipped replacement paper for all of 3rd grade through 5th grade, regardless of how much was actually defective. (The holes were not punched correctly to match the binders.)
3. There were a few families who though they ordered boxes but did not and some families who transferred to CES too late to order boxes. We may want to consider purchasing some extra boxes on consignment for next year
4. The company we have been working with for the past 3 years, Primary School Supplies, has been very responsive to any problems or questions. They offer various discounts for early commitment, early signing, early payment, and referrals that really help to bring down the costs of the supplies by as much as 12% or even more.
5. My goal is to have the supply lists for the 2013 school year approved before January 15, 2012 in order to get the early signing discount

I. Family Fun Night

1. The first one will be held Thursday, November 3rd

J. Merchant Retail Program (Giant/Safeway/Target/Harris Teeter/Amazon)

1. The merchant retail programs are open for the new school year 2011-2012.

A few people had a problem with Giant website, but problem seems to be fixed now. I will need to send a reminder in the PTA Newsletters to inform parents to **re-register** their loyalty card numbers **every new school year**.

Amazon.com wasn't too successful last year, because we started the program a

week prior to the winter holiday. I will have to remind parents that the only way for our school to receive the cash back percentage is to **use link on our CES PTA website**.

K. Go Green Committee

1. Back to School folders were thinned to reduce paper
2. KG connection had a Go Green presentation to the incoming students
3. Go Green Assemblies will be held for older and younger students
4. They are partnering with Reflections
5. They will have a presentation for Back to School Night

L. Spirit Wear

1. Currently taking orders and the deadline is Sept 23rd
2. Will have a table at Back to School Night
3. Suggestion made to have Cougar print magnets for the car for sale
4. Feedback that the sizing on the order form is unclear without having the sample to look at

M. Website

1. CES website which is up to date with a lot of useful info is great-kudos to the administration
2. PTA website is running well, to post items approval from the PTA President must be obtained
3. Membership registration for the directory going well with only minor glitches
4. Volunteer lists are available
5. The Minutes of the meetings once approved will be posted

Meeting Adjourned