



PTA Meeting

Tuesday October 7, 2014

In Attendance: Holly Jankowski, Annie Karp, Anita Young, Michele Tregoning, Lee Derby, Karina Hirschhorn, Lauren Birrer, Pam Cromwell, Reshma Kotti, Shobha Rajan, Jen Coakley, Laurie Whitney, Katya Shterenberg, Jen Strouble, Lori Marshall, Jen Glinski, Ann Moskowitz, Lori Andrus, Farrah Khan

7:00 pm **Call to order and Welcome- President's Report—Holly Jankowski, PTA President**

- Welcome to the first PTA meeting of the new school year.
- Everyone present introduced themselves.

Correspondence/Secretary's Report—Michele Tregoning

- We received a nice note from Ms. Cromwell thanking the PTA for the Staff Appreciation luncheon at the end of last school year, as well as for the \$100 reimbursement for classroom expenses.
- The fourth and first grade teams sent a note thanking us for the welcome back luncheon.
- Ms. Wilson sent a note also thanking us for the welcome back luncheon.
- The notes were passed around for members who were present to read them.

Treasurer's Report—Anita Young

- The budget was approved at the two Back-to-School Nights in September.
- The budget was reviewed line item by line item.
- Audit was completed this summer.

Principal's Report—Lee Derby

- There is more breathing room this year with 100 less students. Almost everyone is in a classroom that is intended to be a classroom.
- Beginning of the year testing is almost completed.
- Sometime this week or next, our PTA-bought chromebooks will be delivered. We will be getting 60 of them. They are going to be in Mrs. Birrer's and Ms. Troup's classrooms and then moved to grade 4 when we get our additional chromebooks. The county-purchased chromebooks will be arriving at our school in November for grades 3 & 5.
- Teachers in grades K-2 have 1 chromebook they use for testing and planning.
- SGA elections are coming up on Thursday. Posters are up in the hallways and students will be listening to the speeches. 4th & 5th graders can run for an office, and just 5th graders can run for President. Grades 2-5 will vote.
- Monday, October 13 is Open House. It will be from 9-11 to accommodate lunch & recess. It's a chance for parents to get a peek at what's going on in your child's classroom.

- Field days are coming up on 10/23 for grades 2 & 3 and on 10/24 for grades 4 & 5. Volunteers are still needed, so let Mr. Jansson know if you are able to come out and help.
- Fall festival will be held in the classrooms on 10/30 so every child can participate. There will not be a parade or costumes. The fall Harvest Festival on 10/24 at Rocky Hill MS is Halloween themed, so kids can wear their costumes then.
- Staff went to Black Hills Park during pre-service week. They got a chance to participate in some teambuilding activities as well as use it as a resource for programs that can come to the school and can be used there. The ASD classes recently took a trip there and went on the pontoon boats. Other grades are planning trips there as well. This will also help us with our green school re-certification, which we are up for this year.
- Grover the bear has been a big hit, especially with the primary grades. There has been noticeable improvement in hallway behavior. It's a great way to reinforce positive behavior.

Staff Liaison Report – Karina Hirschhorn

- The staff appreciation lunch was excellent.
- The Kindergarten team wanted to thank Mrs. Coakley for the volunteer orientations. Since this was some parents' first time having a child at CG, it was helpful for them to get a tour, and know the procedures for when they come in and volunteer.
- Thank you to all the people who volunteer in the Media Center. Lori Marshall brings her guide dog, Nick when she comes and he is a big hit!
- Field Day is coming up, so again, please contact Mr. Jansson if you are able to help out. Tell your neighbors, it's a fun time and you get to be a part of the great experience!
- October is Pink Out month for Breast cancer awareness. Children are asked to wear pink on Wednesdays starting October 8th to show their support. Pictures will be taken each week and there will be a video made at the end of the month.
- Book fair was successful. Media Center classes were held in the classrooms so instruction could continue during that week.
- School Web page has been updated. It shows tweets from Mr. Derby & Mr. Delisle, it has grade level resources and newsletters, and also a search engine, so check it out!!

Committee Reports

- **Staff Appreciation** (Michele Tregoning) – We had a welcome back luncheon during pre-service week. Thank you to all those who donated items. Thank you to those who have sent in money to be used throughout the year for luncheons and other events.
- **Book Fair** (Holly Jankowski) – Book Fair was very successful. We sold over \$10,000 in books and made a profit of \$2,499.86.
- **Welcome picnic** (Annie Karp) – Thanks to everyone who came to the Welcome picnic and helped make it a huge success. Thanks to Mrs. Hirschhorn who emceed, Mr. Greene who set up and cleaned up, everyone who donated a dessert, and all for coming out. Kona Ice had agreed to donate proceeds back to CG. Some SSL helpers were asked if they could provide childcare at our PTA meetings, so we will be having 1 or 2 at each meeting this year.
- **Kindergarten Coffee Chat** (Holly Jankowski)- was successful with 10 people attending.

- **Volunteer Orientation** (Jen Coakley)- There was a volunteer orientation after the Kindergarten Coffee Chat to hear about the expectations and get a tour. There was another one held a couple weeks later and an impromptu one for someone who couldn't attend either of those.
- **Membership** (Annie Karp) – We are off to a great start with 332 members so far, including staff. The perks cards have helped with getting more members. We are still waiting on the excel spreadsheet from the office to get started with the directory. Because we are getting this later than usual, the directory will be a little delayed. It is expected to be printed by mid-late November. This time last year we had 254 members and the year before we had 210 members.
- **Joe Corbi** – The fall fundraiser has begun. Forms are due October 10th and the delivery is on November 19th from 3:30-6pm. If anyone would be able to help with delivery please contact Amy Hoffacker. People are needed starting at 2pm to sort through the items for pick-up.
- **Spirit Night** (Anita Young) – Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A was held last week. We are expecting a check from them. There will be a Spirit Night on October 21 at Panda Express from 4-8pm, at Jersey Mike's the whole week of November 17th, and on January 21st at Café Rio.
- Bear Facts Newsletter – Holly thanked Shobha for doing the newsletter this month
- Website – Holly thanked Jen Glinski for helping design the new website with Holly to help with the communication. All the forms you may need will be found online

Old and New Business

- Open House will be on Monday, Oct 13. We will have new spirit wear available with samples on display.
- PTA Fall Harvest Party at Rocky Hill is Halloween themed. The admission price includes all games so you don't have to buy tickets for them this year. Volunteers as well as SSL students are needed. Contact Pam Jones if you are able to help out.
- Lori Andrus went to the first cultural arts showcase and is planning on going to 2 more. She is looking for an instrumental group to come to CG. An Irish step dance group is a possibility. Mr. Derby shared that Adam Newman, author of How to Catch a Cold is coming in November. He came last year and spoke to the 1st graders. This year he has a new book How to Fight a Cold, and he will be speaking to grades K-2. Kids will have a chance to buy his book and have it signed.

8:00pm Mrs. Jankowski thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.