



PTA Meeting

Tuesday February 4, 2014

In Attendance: Michele Tregoning, Macie Mogot, Lori Marshall, Shobha Rajan, Spencer Delisle, Karina Hirschhorn, Erin Spoales, Jen Coakley, Susie Audet, Kristie Scott, Amanda Parsad, Tammy Weber, Jasmine Castro.

7:00 - 7:05 pm Call to order and Welcome- President's Report—Michele Tregoning, PTA President.

- Welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Mrs. Spoales is here to give a presentation on Bullying.

7:05 - 7:35 pm Bullying Presentation- Mrs. Spoales, Guidance Counselor

- Bullying is aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves power and strength. Typically it is repeated over time targeting the same student every time.
- Bullied kids are more likely than other children to be depressed, lonely and have low self-esteem. Stress from being bullied affects their academic work and attendance.
- Bullying can negatively affect children who observe bullying, even if they are not targets.
- Students who are bullied may fear going to school.
- Bullying can be Physical, Verbal, Non-verbal or Cyber. There is no Physical bullying at Cedar Grove, but we do have Verbal and Non-verbal bullying.
- We are having lessons for 5th graders on Cyber bullying.
- At recess we are looking for kids who are not playing with anyone.
- Parents have to keep an eye on older kids. Snap chat is becoming a huge problem. The pictures are deleted upon being viewed so they cannot be traced back to anyone. Mr. Delisle feels Instagram may be a safer option instead.
- Teasing, name-calling, bad-mouthing are all Verbal bullying. There is a difference between teasing and bullying.
- Social exclusion, intimidation through gestures are Non-verbal bullying.
- When the students have a problem they can approach the counselor. There are talking tickets on Mrs. Spoales door that kids can fill out with details about their problem. Parents do not get notified every time they write a ticket, unless it is a serious issue.
- Cedar Grove aims at preventing Bullying rather than reacting all the time to issues. The goal is to make the school environment safe for children both physically and emotionally.
- To achieve this we offer monthly lessons on conflict resolution, problem solving, anger control, cooperation, social skills and friendship.
- Due to the overcrowding at CG we are not able to have more lessons like in previous years.
- We have school wide programs such as De-bug and Stand Up Against bullying. We also had an entertaining and informative assembly in the Fall on Bullying. It was really helpful for the students.
- There are a few 5th graders who have been trained to be peer mediators. They also help by talking to the students and trying to solve the issue that they write about on the talking ticket.

- Parents can talk to kids at home to be aware of what is going on with them. Also they have to make sure that they understand that they can come to them when something is bothering them. The problem may be very simple to us, but it would seem to be the biggest problem for the kids.
- No bullying behavior should be considered a normal part of growing up.
- Encourage your child to be assertive not aggressive.
- Students in school are taught to use “I” messages to convey how they feel and what they want to change.
- In a bullying scenario there are usually 3 people involved, the bully, the target and the bystanders.
- The bystanders are students who witness someone being bullied. They are relieved they are not the target and also they fear being the next victim.
- They are able to identify with the victim, but feel helpless and afraid to step forward to stop the bullying.
- Bystanders need to stand up to bullies in non-aggressive ways. Helping others does not always mean defending against the bully. It can be as simple as telling an adult.
- Explained a sample lesson on bullying which was given to the 3rd and 4th graders in January.
 - Students are asked to come up to the board and write down what bullies do and what they “look like”. They write powerful, mean, smart, cruel, name-calling, teasing. They do not want their name up there or their friend’s name.
 - The bully triangle is explained which includes the bully, the target and the bystanders.
 - Bystanders need to help the target by alerting an adult.
 - The book “My Secret Bully” was read to the class
- At Cedar Grove we see a lot of exclusion, leaving someone out on purpose.
- The person who is hurt by bullying is just not the victim alone. The bully, the victim and the bystanders are all hurt by bullying.
- Simon’s Hook and The Invisible Boy are all good books on bullying for the students to read.
- If there is any act of bullying in class then parents need to contact the teacher and the counselor.
- If not satisfied with the teacher’s resolution then it can be taken to Mr. Delisle.
- Monthly newsletter from the Counselor would be great, but due to lack of time it is not possible, will try to include an article in the Principal’s newsletter.
- Will also try to upload the list of books used in classes on the school webpage.
- Parents also need to understand that bullying is a repeated action, if it just happens once it cannot be classified as bullying.

7:35 Presidents report

- January meeting minutes were approved.
- Thanks to Susie the PTA web site is up and running again.
- Today we need to vote for the Bylaws. It was posted online, copies were given to everyone.
 - On page 7, Article VI, section.2 under e. we are making a small change. “An officer shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office **except for the Treasurer**. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve more than three consecutive terms.”
 - Motion was made.
 - Lori Marshall second the motion.
 - All in favor – 13 yes, 0 no - Bylaws were approved.
 - Will send it to the MDPTA by registered receipt.

- Board of Education was expected to visit the Clarksburg cluster last week but the date has been changed to March 3rd so that people can attend the rally at Annapolis on February 13th.
 - They want us to have a presentation on an art display board. It is a dinner meeting and will be held at Clarksburg HS. The meeting is to talk to the Board members mainly about keeping the construction projects on track.
 - Any PTA member interested can join Michele for the dinner.
- We are sending out updates on the new Elementary school on our listserv, so if anyone is interested in receiving the updates please send Michele a request to be added to the listserv.
 - The new Principal is looking for a naming committee, please contact him directly on his website if you want to be on that committee.
 - We are going to work with the MCCPTA to form a new PTA for the new school. We already have 2 parents from Little Bennett who have volunteered to be the Presidents of the new board.
 - If anyone knows someone who is going to the new school and would like to be a part of the PTA board please contact Michele.
 - The new school Principal Mr. Sean McGee is coming to our March PTA meeting.

Correspondence/Secretary's Report—Shobha Rajan

- We received a nice note from the 4th grade team thanking the PTA for the fabulous International lunch.
- We also received a note from the 1st grade team thanking the PTA for the wonderful feast, appreciating all the hard work and effort especially with all the bad weather.
- We also received notes from Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Gordon thanking the PTA for the delicious lunch.
- Ms. Cromwell sent a note thanking the PTA for the conference survival kit. She loves the water and mints.
- The notes were passed around for everyone present to read.

The Treasurer's Report—Lori MarshallCopies of the budget were available.

- We wrote checks for the Media Center State books.
- Bingo was great. Expense was \$693.
- We are going to give \$250 to support the post-Prom party for Clarksburg HS.
- Switched \$90 from Chorus music to ICB for the Spring concert.
- Wrote a check of \$478 for web hosting for 3 years.
- As of December we have balance of \$25000.

Staff Liaison Report – Karina Hirschhorn

- Would like to thank the PTA for the fabulous International lunch.
- Science Expo was a huge success, thanks to all the parent volunteers. It was very exciting to see all the projects of our students.
- Earth day is coming up and we are going to be celebrating it the Sunday before Earth day on April 27th from 2pm - 4pm.
 - We need parent volunteers to make this event successful.
 - We are going to be sending out emails and also posting on our website.
 - Animals share the Earth with us is the theme this year.

- We need someone who could bring small animals for the students to see.
- The slogan is Air, Water and Earth – AWE!.

Principal's Report— Spencer Delisle

- Thursday is the Capital Budget hearing as well as the Cluster Concert.
- Rocky Hill staff will be visiting with 5th graders on Monday.
- Map M testing is finishing up. Thankfully we had a physical computer lab.
- ESOL testing is also finishing up.
- MSA test packets will be arriving soon. There are two classes taking the PARCC assessment instead of the MSA. If you are one of those classes, you will be receiving a letter letting you know. Those classes taking the PARCC will not receive a score since this is the first year for that assessment. If you wish to have a score, you can request that your child take both the PARCC and the MSA.

7:50 Committee Reports

Around the World Night (Shobha Rajan): The Around the World Night is on February 21st at Rocky Hill MS. Flyers have been sent out. We have 9 countries participating so far. Going to order the passports for the event. We do have a good list of volunteers for the event.

Read-a-Thon (Michele Tregoning): The Read-a-Thon is from March 21st to April 4th. The Kick off is on March 18th. That is when the envelopes will come home. Reading night is on March 26th, and KidsCo will provide the shuttle service from the Church. The prize drawings will be on April 11th. We are going to having a lots of prizes. If anyone is interested in helping out with this event please contact Michele.

Old and New Business

- No Old or New business.

8:45pm Mrs. Tregoning adjourned the meeting.