



PTA Meeting

Tuesday October 1, 2013

In Attendance: Michele Tregoning, Lori Andrus, Shobha Rajan, Lori Marshall, Lee Derby, Spencer Delisle, Karina Hirschhorn, Loranzo Brandon, Michele Levine, Jen Coakley, Amanda Parsad, Gail Brokmeyer, Youjung Lee, Srinivas Kola, Susie Audet, Laurie Whitney, Holly Jankowski, Kerri Henrellix, Jessica Nelson, Victoria Wangai, Sarenee Hawkins, Erin Prange, Lauren Birrer.

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

- Welcome to the first PTA meeting of the new school year.
- Everyone present introduced themselves.
- Budget approval results - Lori Marshall had copies of the budget displayed on the PTA table during Back to School nights and voted on. Budget is now official. Copies of the budget were distributed to those present in the meeting.
- Dr. Starr is visiting MCPS schools on Oct 14th during the day and in the evening he is attending a Town Hall meeting at Clarksburg High School from 7:30-9pm. All are welcome.

Correspondence/Secretary's Report—Shobha Rajan

- We received a nice note from the First grade team thanking the PTA for the Staff Appreciation luncheon at the beginning of the school year.
- Ms. Cromwell and Mrs. Wilson also sent in a note thanking the parents for the wonderful lunch.
- The notes were passed around for members who were present to read them.

The Treasurer's Report—Lori Marshall

- Spirit wear, Book fair and Welcome picnic money was deposited in the account.
- Issued a check to buy a keyboard and stand for Instrumental music.
- Check written for Poet in residence.
- \$40 spent on Kindergarten coffee chat.
- ICB costs paid.

Staff Liaison Report – Karina Hirschhorn

- The staff appreciation lunch was excellent. Mrs. Gross sent her an appreciating the lunch.
- The staff appreciated Natasha Hammond's efforts that brought Panda express trays of food for the teachers to enjoy during lunch thanking CG for having Spirit Nights there.
- October is Pink Out month for Breast cancer awareness. Children are asked to wear pink

- on Wednesdays starting October 11th to show their support.
- Mrs. Hirschhorn now has hired a middle school student intern a few hours a week in the media center. She will be giving her SSL hours. If anyone knows any High school student looking for SSL hours, or needs an internship credit, we're happy to have them in the media center, so please pass on this information.
 - Book fair was successful though it was held only for 3 days this year.
 - We are working on moving the Variety Show to another location to resolve parking and participation issues.
 - Mrs. Hirschhorn has been looking since last year for a primary series for State books and she had been waiting for the 2014 publications. It costs \$1000 and so she made a motion to the PTA to grant her the funds to purchase the same. It would benefit the 1st and 2nd graders.
 - Lori Marshall explained that as we are not sure of how much we are going to make this year with membership and other fundraisers we are not sure how the budget will be affected. So she said maybe we can look into this and decide in the 3rd marking period. Mrs. Hirschhorn agreed.

Principal's Report—Lee Derby

- We had a very busy first month.
- There have been a lot of transportation issues. We are working on them and they are getting better.
- Due to the transportation issues we do see a lot of cars and buses lined up on 27 during dismissal; hopefully after the bus issues are solved we all will use the buses more.
- Thanks to everyone for the wonderful lunch and also for the Welcome picnic.
- Special thanks to KidsCo as they have been tremendous with man power and shuttles and equipment.
- Fall Book fair was very successful.
- We celebrated the Green Apple day last Saturday at our school. Though it was a small group of people who showed up they worked very hard to improve our courtyard by planting native plants.
- In the last newsletter we have sent out information about the *Climate Change is Elementary* workshop on Friday, October 4.
- The workshop is designed to educate students and families about actions they can take to improve the environment.
- Every grade level will have individual assemblies during the day.
- In the evening parents are also invited to come and hear what your children have learnt and also see how you can do your part as well. Also this gentleman is a juggler and so will be having a performance for you as well.
- If you seek information about anything you want to do about saving power like installing Solar panels etc. you can contact them and they will guide you and provide you with discounts.
- They will be filming it for their own purpose just. If you don't want your child to be filmed please sign and send the form which was sent home along with your child.
- Dr. Starr is meeting on October 14th with staff from all schools and then he has some PTA leadership time. Then he is meeting parents at a Town Hall meeting at 7:30 pm.
- Not sure if he will come to Cedar Grove ES as he visited us just end of last school year.
- Excitement is building up for the SGA elections on October 16th.
- Also students are excited about the Instrumental music classes.
- We are getting 3 additional portables and they are going on the black top as per Government regulations and fire codes.

- They are taking up kids play space, near the loading dock. Basketball courts are there in that area. We will do what will help the most number of kids.
- Next week the portables will be delivered but then it is a long process to put everything together like electricity, PA system, wireless etc.
- A parent wanted to know if the school had heard anything from the traffic police personnel about helping traffic on Route 27 and the Principal explained that there has been no response yet.
- It was also noted that turning left on Route 27 has always been dangerous and frustrating, but the police have said they will not put up anything to stop traffic there.
- Traditionally we have a large all school parade and class room party on Halloween, but this year with the parking issues and also the loss of black top it doesn't seem like we can continue with it.
- It was discussed if we have to limit parent's presence at the party to just the room parents so that we don't spoil the fun for the kids.
- Alternate times and days seem to be too distracting for the school.

7:50 Committee Reports

- **Membership** (Lori Andrus and Macie Mogot) – We are doing well on membership; we are already over last year so that's great. We have a total of 254 total members now compared to 210 at last year. We are also going to have a second membership drive by sending the forms just to people who haven't signed up.
- **Spirit Wear** (Lori Andrus & Macie Mogot) – We have been doing pretty well. Have sold lots of t-shirts. We do have a lot of shorts so if interested please place your orders.
- **Welcome picnic** (Lori Andrus) – Thanks to everyone who came to the Welcome picnic and helped make it a huge success. We want to send a huge thank you to KidsCo for the shuttles and the Moonbounce they provided. Gogibop and Kona Ice were great. Kona Ice had agreed to donate proceeds back to CG. Kona Ice has sent a check for \$150 and also a note that they would love to come to every one of our events. They have an indoor cart so we can let all the event chairpersons know about it. Feedback on these vendors is welcome.
- **Cultural Arts** (Lori Andrus) – Have been to the first showcase and seen a dozen performances. We are planning to have 3 assemblies, one in Fall, one in February and one in April/May. Billy B was great. He also does a lot of green and eco-friendly acts. He charges \$925 for back to back assemblies which last 45 min to 1 hr. Will get back with more details in the next meeting after attending 3 more showcases. It was also noted that Friday's won't work.
- **Book Fair** (Holly Jankowski) – It was successful but short. As we were open all day it was hard to get help. We made a profit of \$2600 in 3 days. People jumped in last minute and helped keep the registers open so we didn't have long lines. We do need more help for next time.
- **Joe Corbi** – The fundraiser was officially kicked off yesterday and the packets went home last week. The top seller gets a Kindle fire and then there are gift cards. Forms are due October 17th and the delivery in on November 20th from 2-6pm. If anyone would be able to help with delivery please contact Amy Hoffacker. Also thanks to parents who help with Joe Corbi table at the Welcome Picnic.

Old and New Business

- Fall harvest festival is on October 25th from 6:30pm to 8pm at the APR and gym. Volunteers are needed. Parking is going to be a problem again and it was decided to ask KidsCo again for the shuttle.
- Michele explained that for every event there is going to be a RSVP form and parents who send in the RSVP will get a ticket and they will be able to attend the event.
- Mrs. Hirschhorn suggested having the events at a different venue as it would not be fair to restrict the students from participating if they had not turned in their rsvp's. The events will have to be charged though.
- Damascus High School or Rocky Hill Middle school can be possible venues.
- A parent raised concern about transportation issues and Mr. Derby explained that they should be solved soon and if parents have any issue they can contact the transportation department.
- The question of whether the portables will stay after the boundary change next year was brought up and Mr. Derby replied that the current 4th graders will not leave next year and so the school size will not be small. The second year after the Boundary change is when the school will be the smallest. If they decide to remove the portables then it would only happen to those old ones at the back of the school and not the newly installed ones as they would adhere to fire codes. The portables are accessory buildings and they have more stringent safety rules.
- Michele clarified that there has not been any decision taken on the Boundary study so far and so the rumors that any option has been chosen can be ignored. Dr. Starr will make his recommendation on October 15th and then the decision will be made only on November 18th.
- After the boundary change decision has been made we will have a committee at Cedar Grove called the Transition Committee, to help make the process easier for everyone.
- Lori Marshall wanted feedback on the After school enrichment programs available at school this year.
- Susie Audet said she will try to get the flyers online as per a parent's request.
- A Parent wanted to know if after school club dates and times can be available ahead of time so that it would be helpful to make day care arrangements and Michele explained that ICB takes a long time to respond when they try to book the dates and so it is not possible to decide all the dates at the beginning of the school year.

8:30pm Mrs. Tregoning adjourned the meeting.