



**Cedar Grove ES PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, February 2, 2015**

In Attendance: Michele Tregoning, Annie Karp, Chris Jansson, Anita Young , Lori Andrus, Barbara Woodward, Jen Coakley , Lee Derby, Karina Hirschhorn, Lori Marshall, Nicole Shulman, Jodi Wilbanks, Shobha Rajan, Laurie Whitney, Ted Lipansky, Bill Jones, Michele Levine, Erica Molnar, Nichole Hoffman, Macie Mogot, Irit Goldman, Tashina Singh, Rona & Nate Han, Michael Blaur, Hilary Szczublewski, Amanda Goldman, Beverly Hazen, Jenny Tsahalís, Dawn Frazier, Tricia Smith, Courtney Jones, Mukesh Agnauleil, Sumita Gary, Gisa Perez, Revital Darmon, Anh Le, Lok Yon, Nallide Divvaler, Jasmin Kaur, Ruehi Chaus

**Presidents Report (Michele Tregoning):**

- Michele Tregoning called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- The minutes from last month's meeting were approved.

**Vice President's Report (Annie Karp):**

- Annie signed a 2 year agreement with AtoZ Directories. We will keep this on file for the next Board.
- If you have not completed the survey for the Feed the Bears Fundraiser, please fill it out so that we can decide how to proceed for next year.

**Treasurer's Report (Anita Young):**

- Anita reviewed the Profit & Loss statement for January 2016. She then also reviewed the working Budget for this current year, from July 1, 2015-January 31, 2016.
- Our Next Spirit Night will be at Panera Bread on February 22, 2016. Information will be coming home soon and posted on the CG website.

**Secretary's Report (Lori Andrus):**

- Mrs. Jackson thanked everyone for making the Winter Concert so successful. To quote - "Without your help we would not be able to perform at Clarksburg HS and give our kids a chance to shine like the stars they are. All of us here at CGES are lucky to have such a wonderful PTA!"
- The First Grade Team thanked us for organizing the Bullying Assembly. Again to quote - "It was wonderful and kept the students attention so well. It is such an important topic! The student "actors" did a great job too. I know all the students loved seeing the "big kids" performing!"

### **Staff Liaison's Report (Karina Hirschhorn):**

- The Science Expo was a big success. We would now like to receive feedback on what people thought about the Expo. Such things as location, number of participants, the feedback the students received, etc.
- Bear Way Assemblies will be tomorrow, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The winners for January will be announced.
- Read-a-loud Day will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dr. Seuss' Birthday!). Everything is underway for that event.
- Jump Rope for Heart will run from February 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, during PE classes. More information will be coming home about this event soon, and posted on the CG website.

### **Principal's Report (Lee Derby):**

- The Science Expo was a huge success. The only drawback he felt was that there were SO many projects that it was hard to see all the different exhibits – though this is a good problem to have!
- A group of former Cedar Grove students are one of 8 groups that will be advancing in the Verizon Innovative App Challenge – huge congratulations to these students!
- Because of the BIG snowstorm we are a bit delayed on testing, but we will get through it all and everyone is excited to get back on track after being out for so long.
- The Vision & Hearing screening wrapped up today.
- We need one more Coach for Girls on the Run, so if interested, please contact Kobie Buttrey at: [Kobie\\_D\\_Buttrey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kobie_D_Buttrey@mcpsmd.org)

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Mom & Muffins (Mike Blauer) and Dad's & Donuts (Ted Lipansky):**

- Mike Blauer will be in charge of Mom's & Muffins on February 23<sup>rd</sup> for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students.
- Ted Lipansky will be in charge of Dad's & Donuts on February 24<sup>th</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students.
- Huge thank you to these 2 Dads, and all the Parents, that will be helping out with these events!!

### **Old Business / New Business:**

#### **Michele introduced Dr. Barbara Woodward – the Principal of the new Clarksburg/Damascus Middle School.**

- Dr. Woodward started off by saying that she is sure that Parents will have more questions, so please feel free to call her cell or email her: 240-550-0286 (cell) or [Barbara\\_A\\_Woodward@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Barbara_A_Woodward@mcpsmd.org) (email).
- Carol Petersen is the school secretary and has already started working for Dr. Woodward. She also worked for the MCPS Construction Offices and has been a wealth of information and help in getting things set up for this new school.
- Barbara has been working for MCPS for 23 years. She has been a teacher, she has worked in the Administrative office, and most recently was the Assistant Principal at Frost Middle School. She said for all of her years and different experiences, being involved with Middle School has been her favorite experience.
- The Assistant Principal position was posted and they will be selected next week, but will not start officially full-time until July 1st.

- She is planning on having 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leaders, content specialists in each subject area, electives, and she plans on having the Media Specialist as part of her Leadership Team.
- As a community we need to all help decide what kinds of programs that we would like to see our kids partake in at the Middle School. Once Dr. Woodward receives that feedback, she can decide what types of Teachers, for which programs, she will need to hire. So far she absolutely plans on having Orchestra, Band, and Chorus. The Arts rotation will include 3 or 4 different classes (i.e. digital art, music, etc.). The school will also have a very nice TV Studio, so that may also be part of the arts rotation. Language will also be an elective. If you have other interests that are not listed on the registration form, please contact Dr. Woodward and let her know. If there is enough interest, she might be able to add classes.
- Right now the form for instance offers French, Spanish, and Chinese. It will depend on the numbers of students that sign up for these electives. They will need a minimum number of students to provide these classes. This is the same for all electives that are offered on the Middle School Forms.
- Though other Middle Schools have already done their Parent meetings, there is still plenty of time to get these forms filled out. Dr. Woodward said she will also come back to meet with Parents for a morning or evening meeting, if any Parents feel they need more help.
- Currently the school will be starting with 443 students.
- Most Colleges require 2 years of High School Foreign Language studies. The State also now requires 4 years of High School Math. So keep that in mind when trying to figure out what classes to help choose for your children. You don't want to push a child into overly advanced classes too early, because when they get to High School they are in extremely difficult classes – just try to keep this all in mind when thinking and planning for your child's future.
- Outdoor Ed is a program that Dr Woodward highly supports. All 6<sup>th</sup> graders will attend in the Fall, and she is trying very hard to get this set up for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade in the Fall as well.
- Dr. Woodward is also hoping to do things like Meet & Greets, Ice Cream Socials, Dance Parties, etc. to get the kids excited and get to know one another.
- The County gives money for Intramural Programs. This is dependent on the numbers of Kids that end up at this new school. Dr. Woodward said she will have some funding for these Intramural Programs. She is also trying to be very creative with how to integrate some of these programs during a normal school day.
- Dr. Woodward will be working on the type of scheduling she will need to integrate in this school. She has been researching & visiting schools all over the Nation to come up with some creative ideas on how to make this work.
- Middle School will have 7 dedicated teachers/classes for the day – Math, English, Science, Social Studies, etc. along with electives of Foreign Language, Art, Music, etc.
- The name for the new school will be announced at the end of March.
- There will be lockers at the school. The Architect has changed the design of lockers – they will now be wider and 2 tiered (one on top of the others).
- The Administrative office will be open July 1<sup>st</sup>. Parents & Kids are not allowed in to the building until they have received the occupancy permit. Dr. Woodward is really hoping to get a partial permit so that kids can come in and meet some of the staff and practice with lockers.
- The difference in homework between Elementary School & Middle School will be a different, but Dr. Woodward does not believe in over burdening children with Homework. If you feel that your child is overwhelmed with too much homework when school starts, please contact the teacher to discuss this further. She is a big believer in teaching organization to her students and not procrastinating.
- Middle Schools are funded for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students to partake in Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Soccer, etc. If there are enough students that want to play these sports then they will be funded by the County. She is also a firm believer in sports & exercise.

- If children need to do summer school, they will need to do this at Rocky Hill. They will not have their building permit in time.
- She is planning on having some sort of Orientation – dates & times will be announced at a later date.
- The Department of Transportation is working on the plan for transportation for this new school. Amy Wilson is in charge of Transportation for Clarksburg, so if you have any concerns, please contact her.
- The naming Committee for the school has been decided. They are given 4 names to choose from. They will get feedback from the community and they will then submit their top 2 names to the Board of Education and the name will be decided. It is a very collaborative process and works well. The kids then get to vote on the colors and mascot for the school.
- In the last month there has been a lot of time & money spent on state of the art equipment for the school. She is very excited about all the resources that this school will have.

**Michele adjourned the PTA meeting at 8:10pm.**