



**Cedar Grove ES PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

In Attendance: Michele Tregoning, Annie Karp, Chris Jansson, Anita Young, Lori Andrus, Lee Derby, Karina Hirschhorn, Lori Marshall, Nicole Shulman, Shobha Rajan, Greg Bishop.

**Presidents Report (Michele Tregoning):**

- Michele Tregoning called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- There will be a Clarksburg Cluster meeting tomorrow night at RHMS. It is very important that we advocate for the budget.

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

- Anita reviewed the Profit & Loss statement for February 2016. She then also reviewed the working Budget for this current year, from July 1, 2015-February 29, 2016.
- Our next Spirit Night will be on March 16<sup>th</sup> at Pazzo Pomodoro, and then April 11<sup>th</sup> at Chick Fil A.

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

- Ms. Gardner thanked Annie Karp and the PTA fund-raising Committee. She thanked us for our commitment to the school & students, and the programs that we fund, that help extend the learning. Along with her note were letters from all of her students thanking us – SO very sweet & cute!!

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

- The Dad's & Donuts and the Mom's & Muffins events went very well – thank you to all who came out and thank you to the volunteers.
- Thank you to the PTA for the dessert bar – it was much appreciated!!
- We are going to have an Earth Week, starting with the Greenewit Assembly on April 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have events all week and more details on this will be coming. We are changing things up from the way we have done things in the past, so this will be a "new" Earth Day/Week, and we are very excited with all the new changes.
- Very excited about Reading week and the Read-a-loud day tomorrow, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dr. Seuss' Birthday!)

## Principal's Report (Lee Derby):

- Thank you to Mr. Jansson for the Jump Rope for Heart event.
- We had a cluster string concert on February 11<sup>th</sup>, which was wonderful. Thank you to Mrs. Eschelmann for her hard work with our talented young students.
- The Band concert was canceled because of the snow storm. We are trying to figure out a good day to re-schedule this event.
- "Pennies for Patients" starts tomorrow, raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma society.
- K and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be doing a partnership with the University of MD in regards to dental health. All students in those grades will have a quick "smile check" on March 4 unless parents opt out.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade will have the MSA Science test next week.
- Family Life Parent meeting will be tomorrow night in the Media Center.
- Summer School – we are planning on having summer school here at CG for incoming K – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. It will be a 3 week program from July 11<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> from 9am - 12pm. We will also have the MC Recreation Department running a camp at the school so that kids can stay after summer school and continue to be here at the school (Something that was greatly requested in previous years). The Summer School program will be based on MCPS curriculum. It is also a lot of fun and they have special events on Fridays.
- We have not heard anything yet regarding snow days & if we will need to make up any days – this will be determined after the last threat of snow has passed.
- This morning our leadership team looked at Reading assessments and there are about 9% more (more than in the Fall) kids that are meeting the requirements in grades K-2. We also looked at the results of student focus groups. For 2 years we have surveyed African American and Hispanic students to gather their perceptions of school and how we can increase their performance and close the achievement gap. This time we included a sample of all student groups to see if there is a difference in the experiences of different groups of kids. Preliminary results show that there are not and that overall responses are more positive than in previous years.

## Committee Reports:

### Middle School Naming Committee (Michele Tregoning):

- The 4 names had been received from the BOE. Surveys have also gone out asking the community for additional names. There was a meeting last week discussing the additional names that have been brought up – the biggest being John Clarke and Hallie Wells. Everyone on the committee seemed to really like the Hallie Wells name and so that was what we were going to present to the BOE. A petition has gone around to sign for Hallie Wells, but there is also a petition that has been started to petition for Alan Cheung. We need everyone to please sign the petition to vote for Hallie Wells. The link is: <https://www.change.org/p/montgomery-county-board-of-education-name-the-new-middle-school-in-clarksburg-for-mrs-hallie-wells> and is also on the CG website, Facebook, Arora Hills HOA website, etc. In addition to signing this petition, it is also encouraged that you write to the Board of Ed at [boe@mcpsmd.org](mailto:boe@mcpsmd.org). The Board of Ed meeting will be on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm at the Carver Educational Center in Rockville, MD. It would be extremely beneficial to have as much of the community as possible come out to support the Hallie Wells name.

**Bingo (Amy Hoffacker, read by Michele Tregoning):**

- Bingo will be on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm with games starting at 6:45pm. Food & drinks will be sold at this event. Amy has plenty of parent help, but needs a few more staff members to help out with calling Bingo. Mrs. Hirschhorn will put the word out to the staff.

**Cultural Arts (Lori Andrus):**

- Our next Cultural Arts assembly will be on Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, for grades 2-5, in the morning. We will be having award-winning Author, Mary Amato. Mary is an author of Children's and Young Adult books. She is also a poet, playwright, and songwriter. In this assembly she will tell the inspirational story & struggle of how she got started in writing. She will then take the students on a journey through the writing process - discussing where ideas come from, how journals help, how a book gets published, and the secrets to a successful writer.
- Our next assembly will be GreeNewit, which will be a kick off to Earth Week, and will be held on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in the morning. This will be an educational assembly that will teach our students how our interactions with the environment greatly affect the way we live, and how STEM plays an essential role in the path toward sustainability. They will also learn how to identify opportunities for reducing consumption and saving resources.
- On Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, I am very excited to announce that we will have Cello Fury perform at our school. Cello Fury is a Cello/Rock powerhouse whose original music combines the emotional & symphonic sounds of the cello, with driving rock beats. They will engage the students with their interactive program, exploring the connection between the worlds of Classical music & Rock music.
- I also wanted to let Parents & Students know that the Fillmore in Silver Spring will be putting on a concert on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm. This concert will feature Cello Fury (our May 19<sup>th</sup> assembly) and Christylez Bacon & Wytold, the Grammy nominated Hip-Hop artist and electric cellist duo that performed for our students last year. This is a great opportunity to get to see the incredible shows and talented artists that our students get to see!

**Around the World Night (Shobha Rajan):**

- The flyers have gone out today – the date is Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30pm at RHMS.

**Old Business / New Business:**

- Mr. Bishop has asked for us looking into the possibility of having a new school sign out front. He has also been having a lot of trouble with the current tractor (for pushing the snow). He will look into how much a new tractor will be and get back to us, but he thinks it is about \$900.00. We may be able to split this cost with Mr. Derby. This is something we could look at in the summer during our budget meeting

**Michele adjourned the PTA meeting at 8:20pm.**