



**Cedar Grove ES PTA Meeting  
Tuesday, October 4, 2016**

In Attendance: Nicole Shulman, Annie Karp, Jodi Wilbanks, Lori Andrus, Lori Marshall, Michele Tregoning, Jen Coakley, Lee Derby, Courtney Jones, Karina Hirschhorn, Mini Varughese, Tashina Singh, Erica Molnar, Laurie Whitney, Paula McLean, Jill Hooven, Katya Shterenberg, Heather & Mark Rutz, Jennifer Loznak, Memuma Macarthy, Tigist (Tina) Amberber, Heather Zigmund

**Presidents Report (Nicole Shulman):**

- Nicole Shulman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The PTA Board then went around and introduced ourselves.
- Thank you for coming to our Welcome Back Picnic – thank you to Annie & Jodi for hosting a fantastic event!
- Our 2016-17 budget was approved at the Welcome Picnic, so we are ready to move forward with this new budget. Lori Marshall will talk about that more when she speaks.
- There will be no Fall Harvest evening event this year due to low participation in the last few years, and more importantly we were never able to secure a Chair for this event.
- It was also brought up that the PTA Board met with Mr. Derby & Mrs. Jones to discuss bringing back the Halloween parade, costumes and parties to CG. Unfortunately they were not in favor of having this event again this year. Mr. Derby feels very strongly and said a very definitive no, that we will not have Halloween parties or a parade in the future. There are a number of families that do not celebrate Halloween and so Mr. Derby feels that he does not want to leave these kids out. Mr. Derby & Mrs. Jones did offer to have a Halloween parade after school at 4:00pm on Halloween, but we just felt that trying to squeeze in a Halloween parade at 4pm on Halloween would be very difficult for the parents, kids, and teachers to facilitate – most people are already rushing to try and get their kids home, fed, and ready for Halloween night. We just felt that adding this extra event would end up being very difficult for most people.

**Vice Presidents Report (Annie Karp / Jodi Wilbanks):**

- Thank you for attending the Back-to-School Picnic. Earned \$200.00 total from both Kona Ice and Maggi's.
- Feed the Bears has been very successful. Right now we are pretty sure we are at 50% of our goal (or approximately \$7,500). Our final goal is \$15,000, so we will make a decision later in the year to see if we feel if we need to do any further fundraisers. Thank you to everyone who has

donated so far, we are thrilled with these results!! Thank you for supporting CG and our children!

- Mrs. Daly's class won the Feed the Bears contest for this first month for most class participation.

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

- We received a thank you card from Diane Gordon, Reading Specialist, thanking us for the donation we gave allowing teachers to choose a book for the March Guest Reader Day. She also thanked us for the gifts for the students, as well as our work on the Summer Reading Program.

**Treasurer's Report (Lori Marshall):**

- Lori let us know that the 2016-17 Budget was approved at the Welcome Picnic and that we are now able to cut checks for any PTA expenses from here on out. She had the budget available for everyone to review if they wanted.

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

- Thank you to all the volunteers who came to the Volunteer Orientation with Mrs. Coakley. I need more volunteers for the Media Center, so please, please sign up on the Sign-Up Genius you can access through our school Web page if you are able to help out.
- We now have a You Tube Channel for the TV news. You can access it on the CG website to view if you would like to check it out.
- The Book Fair was here in the media center for over a week. It was very successful and thanks to the PTA, the media center was able to purchase over \$600 new books for the children.
- The Bring your Dad to school event last Friday was a huge success. There were quite a few logistical issues that need to be worked out for future years, but all in all it was a great success, and the kids were super excited to have their Dads here.
- Pink Out Wednesdays, in honor of Bev Kerns, a staff member and friend who passed away from Breast Cancer a few years ago, will be held every Wednesday in October. Please have your children wear pink on Wednesdays.
- Fan Fridays has started so please have your children wear their favorite team jerseys on Fridays.
- Mr. Jansson is having Field Day on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and October 21<sup>st</sup> for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Please sign up to volunteer for Field Day. Additional information is on the CG website.
- It was decided that the Holiday Shop will be in Mrs. Spoales office.
- Thank you for the PTA sponsored luncheon during our pre-service week in August.

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

- As of today we have 605 students. Projections were right on target and right where we left in the spring.
- Very happy with the Summer Reading program – we had 10 times the amount of kids reading this past summer than in previous summers. Mr. Derby asked for feedback and we said that the teacher phone calls were very popular with the kids, along with the prizes.

- We have all new “Trophies” for the Bear Ways program. Mrs. Haynes’ husband crafted these Bear sculptures and they have been very popular.
- Thank you to everyone who shops at Harris Teeter and participates in the program to raise money for the school. If you have not signed up at Harris Teeter, please do so right away. We used funds from this program to register our compacted math classes for Math Olympiad. Also please note that if you have signed up in the past, you do need to sign up again each year.
- Mrs. Diaz will be our new cafeteria manager.
- Picture Day is Thursday, October 13th.
- The first Assembly, the NED show, which is an Anti-Bullying Assembly will be held on Thursday, November 3rd. Mrs. Andrus will be sending home a flyer in regards to this event, as we get closer to the date.
- One of the parents brought up that at her child’s old school they had parents who painted positive messages in chalk on the sidewalk the day of their Anti-bullying assembly and it was very well received.

**Assistant Principal’s Report (Mrs. Jones):**

- There are new expectations for Volunteers at CG. You must complete the online class on Child Abuse. More information can be found on the CG website.
- Also, if you plan on volunteering for a 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade extended day field trip, which tend to be further away and a longer length field trip, you will need to do finger printing and a background check. You will need to schedule an appointment and there is a cost. This information is on the Montgomery County Schools website in the FAQ section, and will also be shared directly with those parents who volunteer for this type of field trip.
- Our first lockdown drill was last week. It went very smoothly and everyone did a great job of doing what they needed to do and being in the right place at the right time.
- It was also brought up that there have been 2 incidences in the Arora Hills neighborhood where there have been police and SWAT teams involved and these incidences occurred around the times that kids were coming home from school. We had a very lengthy discussion about opening the lines of communication between MC Police and the schools, so that children coming home from school and off the buses would not be in the line of danger, as well as seeing and being involved in unpleasant situations.

**Committee Reports:**

**Volunteer Coordinator (Jen Coakley):**

- Thank you to Annie & Jodi for helping out with Kindergarten Coffee Chat and Volunteer Orientation. We still need a Chair for Bear Facts, Parent’s Night Out, and the Silent Auction.

**Book Fair (Yamini Kamalahasan – read by Nicole Shulman):**

- The Book Fair was very successful, and the turnout was higher than last fall. The total profits were \$2,545.57.

- She brought up that unfortunately quite a few volunteers who had signed up to help, were not able to help because they did not know about the new volunteer requirements. It's a new requirement and just implemented, but for the future, we will just need to continue to spread the word and make sure that all volunteers have fulfilled this new requirement.

#### **Spirit Night (Tashina Singh):**

- First Spirit Night was at Café Rio on September 28<sup>th</sup>, and we made \$117.14. Working on details for the October Spirit Night and will send out flyers as soon as that is ready.

#### **Spirit Wear (Mike Galipo – read by Nicole Shulman):**

- Mike should have the Spirit Wear ready to go in the next week or so, so be on the lookout for that information and please purchase your CG Spirit Wear! More info will also be available on the CG website.

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

- Parent Survey Data – Mr. Derby:
  - A random sample of parents were surveyed about a variety of categories in regards to CG. 29% of the parents returned this survey. This survey will go out again in March – if you do receive the survey, please, please take the few minutes to fill it out. Some areas that we did very well in had to do with feeling welcomed, feeling safe, feeling respected, feel they play an important role in their child's education, feel comfortable talking to their child's teachers about their education, feel comfortable advocating for their child, and feel that there is an adult at the school that will advocate for their child's needs, etc.
  - Parents at the PTA meeting also suggested more communication from teachers. Many brought up (especially parents that have children in multiple grades) that certain teachers are excellent at communicating, either through email or handouts, while others they hardly hear from. Everyone seemed to agree that weekly, bi-weekly, etc. communication from the teachers is extremely helpful in knowing what our children are learning, and helps us to be a partner in our children's education and to continue that education at home.

**Nicole adjourned the PTA meeting at 8:55pm.**