



**Cedar Grove ES PTA Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

In Attendance: Nicole Shulman, Jodi Wilbanks, Lori Andrus, Lori Marshall, Michele Tregoning, Jen Coakley, Courtney Jones, Mark Rutz, Mini Varughese, Bridgette Fanelli, Heather Zigmund, Amy McDermott, Memma Macarthy, and Tigist (Tina) Amberber

Presidents Report (Nicole Shulman):

- Nicole Shulman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to our second meeting of the New Year.
- Attended the Cluster Meeting last month. There is a new Elementary School in Clarksburg Village opening in August 2019. The boundary study for the elementary school and the High School will be conducted late fall 2017 or early 2018.
- At the Board of Education meetings, there has been a lot of discussion on cell phone usage in Elementary Schools – further discussion and a decision is still to be determined.
- The Smile Program has been cut and we are reviewing some alternate programs which we will discuss later in the meeting.

Vice Presidents Report (Jodi Wilbanks):

- We signed another year with A-Z Directory.
- We finally were able to break the tie for Feed the Bears. Mrs. Wilson's class won and they picked the Beta Fish.

Secretary's Report (Lori Andrus):

- No correspondence this month.

Treasurer's Report (Lori Marshall):

- Lori gave us copies of the 2016-17 Budget, along with the Profit & Loss statement from August 29 – February 6, 2017.

Principal's Report (Courtney Jones):

- Jump Rope for Heart starts next week in PE classes. This is a great program to make sure that kids understand the importance of exercise for heart health.
- This past weekend we had staff participate in a program at Towson called MAEOE – Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education. Our staff presented on the process for Green School Certification, to assist other schools working through the process.
- Continuing to collect pop tops for Jonah Karp's service project. Collection boxes are here at the school. This is for a former CG student, and the child of our PTA Vice President, Annie Karp.
- SGA Candy Gram's are being sold this week – they can be purchased in the music room at the start of the day.
- The Girls on the Run program is starting soon for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade girls. Registration will be online starting at 9am on Tuesday, February 14th.
- We recently had our own "Souper Bowl" for Damascus Help. Our Souper Bowl results were that the Falcons won the Souper Bowl. The cans collected were donated to Damascus Help.
- The SGA and Kate Zigmund are doing a school-wide project called Kindness Day on February 14th. A nice opportunity for the kids to pay it forward and write a kind note to another class mate.

Committee Reports:

Volunteer Coordinator (Jen Coakley):

- Found Chairs for Around the World Night, Moms & Muffins, Spring Dance, and Spring Picnic – so that is great news.
- There is a Vision & Screening event happening on February 15th & 16th.

Spirit Night (Tashina Singh – read by Nicole Shulman):

- We had a very successful Spirit Night at Ledo's Pizza and made \$170.00.
- There will be a Spirit Night at Panera Bread on February 27th from 6-9pm at the Panera at Seneca Meadows Shopping Center in Germantown (near Wegmans). Panera will donate 10% of its total sales to our school. Flyers will be coming out soon.

Read-a-Thon (Michele Tregoning):

- Read-a-thon will start Thursday, March 2nd and run through March 16th. Trying to reach a school goal of 275,000 minutes read. Kids will receive a prize for participating, for meeting their goals, etc. It's always a lot of fun. We will have a kick-off assembly to get the kids excited and ready to read. Flyers will be coming home toward the end of February with more information in regards to this. The kids will just need to keep track of the minutes that they've read. This event will also book end with the Read Aloud night on March 9th which is a fun evening event where the teachers read aloud to the students.

Bingo (Amy McDermott):

- Bingo is all set for March 24th at Rocky Hill Middle School. All of the prizes ready and already have plenty of SSL help and parent volunteers. This is a fun event with your child's favorite teachers calling Bingo.

After-School Clubs (Mini Varughese):

- P.O.M. After School - a curriculum based program with a mission to increase confidence in girls.
- Matt Hale from Flex Academies came to speak about their program. This is an enrichment program where they bring a variety of different companies to us for after-school activities. These are 1 day a week / 1 hour programs that run for 8 weeks. We can work with Flex Academies to hand select which vendors (from over 60 different activities) that we would like to have at our school. The main difference with Flex Academies is that they have an on-site coordinator to make sure that the kids are in their right place, that the vendors are doing what they are supposed to be doing, and to check the kids in and out. If for any reason the vendor or teacher does not show up, the on-site coordinator will also take over that class. Also if there happens to be an early release or a snow day, the on-site coordinator will make sure that the parents are contacted. They also handle all of the flyers and market their program. This also takes the liability off of the PTA and off of the individual vendors. They can also do a parent survey to find out what types of programs parents/kids would like to see at the school. They will also do a follow up survey to receive feedback from the parents/kids and work on ways they can improve. Background checks are done with every vendor and the staff from each vendor. There is no cost or service fee to the PTA. There is also a scholarship program with this group. This is typically a 1 year contract but we can do a trial run for this coming spring and then decide if we definitely move forward with next year.
 - Mini will work on checking references; see what types of classes they will offer and what types of classes are popular. She will report back and we will make a decision.

Old Business / New Business:

- Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7th

Nicole adjourned the PTA meeting at 8:20pm