

Cedar Grove PTA Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

7:00 President Nicole Shulman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

President's Report- Nicole Shulman:

- Thank you to Goldie Izadshenas for chairing Around the World Night. It was a huge success!
- Thank you to Yamini Kamalahasan for chairing the Book Fair.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with those events!

Vice President's Report- Annie Karp:

- We are still waiting on data from the office to proceed with the directory.
- Last year at this time, we had around 85 PTA members. To date, we have 166 members.
- For our Feed the Bears Campaign, we have \$4,500. That is very short of our goal, so we will be sending reminders home in backpacks.

Vice President's Report- Lori Andrus:

- Mrs. Stevenson was the class Feed the Bear winner for September and they love their beta fish! October winners will be announced soon.

Treasurer's Report- Lori Marshall:

- The budget was shared- what money has been spent and the income we have received.
- We are in line with our budget items to date.

Secretary's Report- Michele Tregoning:

- Shared the 4 thank you notes the PTA has received.
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Committee Reports:

Volunteer Coordinator- Jen Coakley:

- Spoke on behalf of Yamini Kamalahasan for the Book Fair. We made \$934 in Scholastic Dollars from our fall sale.
- Books were purchased for the school's Read Aloud Day and for the Media Center.
- Spoke on behalf of Goldie for Around the World Night. We had 7 countries represented and everyone had a good time.
- Thank you to Katya Shterenberg for helping with Picture Day and taking pictures at events.

Spirit Nights- Nicole Shulman (on behalf of Kelly Liu):

- We earned \$300.65 from the Chipotle Spirit Night and \$74.17 from Sweet Frog.
- Wednesday, November 14th there is a spirit night at Agrodolce in Milestone.
- December 6th- Pot Belly

Holiday Shop- Jodi Wilbanks:

- Coming up in December. We are working on pricing items. Most things have been purchased. We will need A LOT of adult help.

Box Tops- Heather Rutz:

- We made \$470 from the fall Box Tops event. There will be another one in April.

Principal's Report- Lee Derby

- Grades & conferences are the big thing right now.
- Third grade has a new teacher. She will be starting the week of November 13th.
- The Cafeteria Manager is back from maternity leave, and the new Art teacher, Mrs. Kim will be starting November 13th from maternity leave as well.
- Thank you to the PTA for bringing Dr. Recess in for a cultural arts assembly. He was great in a lot of ways. He met with the staff before school and they got a lot out of it, including his principles and philosophies as well as recess choices.
- We've had a couple of author visits. Jerry Perlet visited 2nd and 3rd graders, and Adam T. Newman, author of the How to Catch a Cold series. Both talked to the students about the writing process.
- SGA elections were held on Thursday, November 9th. Mrs. Jackson is the SGA sponsor.

Staff Liaison Report- Karina Hirschhorn

- There is a winter break reading contest coming up! It will integrate reading and writing. There is a 3 time book checkout incentive. You check out 3 books, then check out 3 more. There will be a raffle on December 8th for those that participate in creating a new plot for the next book in a series. The students choose the series for which they would like to write the next plot for. There is a video on the school webpage.

Grading & Reporting- Diane Gordon, April Thurn, Penny German, Lee Derby

- Changes came about based on parent input. The county heard parents needed a clearer picture as to how their children were doing, so they made some upgrades to the report cards.
- Upgrades include:

1. Kindergarten report card 4x per year
2. Kindergarten Additional Reading Data
3. Levels of Performance
4. Overall Subject Grade
5. Updates Learning Skills
6. Reading Level Statement
7. Enrichment and Acceleration

- There are some changes that were made as well. Now the report card includes ABCD Letter Grades (different from what you are used to) in grades 2-5. K and 1 will continue to earn PIN (no ES)
 - A= consistently demonstrates mastery
 - B=frequently demonstrates mastery
 - C= periodically demonstrates mastery
 - D= rarely demonstrates mastery
- For more information on the changes, please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading>
- Even though grades are A, B, C, D in grades 2-5, they are not a percentage.
- In each subject area, there are subcategories. Student work is graded by: projects, writing samples, oral presentations & discussions, and other assignments.
- There is a section on Reporting Instructional Reading Level which will include a statement if your child is reading a year or more above the current reading target or if your child is reading half year or more below the current reading target.
- There is also information regarding Defining Enrichment. Enrichment lessons further engage students in content and challenge students to apply previously taught skills and concepts in a new way.
- A special statement will be printed in the Mathematics section if your child consistently receives enrichment in math.
- If you would like additional information and resources, please see your child's teacher, Mr. Derby, the Parent's Guide to the Marking Period document, or the Elementary Grading and Reporting Website: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/report-cards.aspx>
- Report cards come home on November 22nd.

Our next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, December 5th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.