

# MINUTES

## College Gardens Elementary School PTA Minutes

September 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Green, President at 7:04 p.m.

### In attendance

Jen Green, Eric Van Ryzin, Ron Hays, Jen Halper, Gegi Leeger, Nancy Paul (board members) Absent: Linda Sankanung

### **President's Report**

Overview of unofficial May 2011 minutes

Welcoming PTA members

Looking for VP Membership

Linda Sankanung was voted in as VP of Fundraising by the PTA board on September 6, 2011. She was unable to attend today but is working on scheduling community dinners for this school year.

### VP of Communications Report

Eric Van Ryzin introduced himself. Communications Red Group is an electronic form for flyers and handouts from school. Soliciting participation in the red group. Please e-mail at [info@cgespta.org](mailto:info@cgespta.org) to join. An E-mail will be sent to those who participated last year to determine whether to continue with red.

Newsflash, Yahoo Group, Facebook group advertised.

### VP of Fundraising Report

No report

### **Treasurer's Report**

The PTA has been good at fundraising but we need to spend the money. PTA has done well with one-time gifts; however we need to spend the annual budget. Last year's budget was \$18,500 and only spent \$11,000. Approximately an additional \$15,000 was spent on one-time gifts.

No Sally Foster fundraiser this year.

Gift cards for grocery store – did well last year because a huge inventory not so this year

Yearbook makes money so now a fundraiser line in the annual budget.

Expenses: 4 new ones noted on lines 50 through 53. These were generally elsewhere in a catch-all line. Now breaking these out

All donations are tax deductible.

E-mail board with budget requests and ideas on how to spend our money.

Membership request that the PTA board provide a link on website to all the ways parents and families can help donate. (ie. Office Depot, Box Tops, Labels for Education, etc.)

Membership requested that the Treasurer add description of each line item to the budget.

Vote on budget: Unanimous passage of Budget.

One member is wondering how to make foreign language a priority at College Gardens.

Secretary

Thank you note from Sarah Meadows, music teacher, read to the membership

Maryland PTA certificates awarded to College Gardens PTA announced.

MCCPTA Reps

Meetings are 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month – everyone is invited.

Capital Improvement Budget – 4 feasibility studies at the elementary school level for our cluster occurred last school year.

Feasibility study also at Julius West – 12 to 15 portables will be needed during the renovation

This Fall all feasibility studies will come before the board for funding.

Cluster meeting Monday, November 7, 2011 TBD for time and location.

No other place for CRC so current proposal is 4 story school with CRC co-located with office space and double decking parking – RM #5

A comprehensive plan to address overcrowding in the RM cluster will be developed this Fall. Most likely only one addition plus RM #5 will be approved. After approval of the CIP a boundary study will then be conducted for the entire cluster.

Superintendent Starr is having Listen and Learn meetings our area meeting at Wooten HS at 7-8:30 on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Other meetings available at other locations later in the year.

Thank you to Chazara Clark-Smith, a CIP Parent volunteer, who agreed to attend meetings as well.

## **Principal's Report**

The PTA last year funded a large technology gift. The school matched the gift and five promethean boards are on the way as well three elmos, six desk tops and a laser printer to ensure equal access to technology throughout the school.

### **Opening Week**

95+ staff

Stacey Rogovoy delivered a healthy baby girl, Jane Elizabeth. Mr. Dushel is Acting AP

Back to School Picnic was a success and Mr. Ewald was interviewing kindergarten teachers till 6 pm that evening.

2 fire drills, 1 severe weather shelter drill, 3 principal's chats, 6 Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies Grade Level Tours, and several Connect ED calls occurred during the opening week.

### **Back to School Nights**

September 7<sup>th</sup> APR 7 pm

September 8<sup>th</sup> APR 7 pm

### **Superintendent Listening & Learn Events**

Two this week: September 6<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup>

## Communication Tools

Mr. Ewald is available to communicate with parents and families at Arrival & Dismissal, has an Open Door Policy, E-mail, Telephone, Principal Updates, Connect ED messages, PTA meetings, Etc.

## Enrollment

831 total enrollment as of September 6, 2011. Mrs. Armi continues to register students.

## Recess Rangers

Now called Go to Gators – parent volunteers needed for recess and lunch only 2 to 3 paid staff for each lunch and recess. Parents who commit to a weekly timeslot will receive a cool t-shirt.

## Chinese Language Teacher

Continuing discussions with MCPS Human Resources and Chinese Embassy that started back in April 2011.

Skype interviewing 4 Chinese teachers for this school year on Monday. MCPS pays for visa and teacher works at no salary.

Ms. Li's visa expired and China did not renew, so she returned to China.

Mrs. Johnson was unable to attend tonight as staff liaison due to graduate school, but will continue as staff liaison and share responsibilities with Ms. Gilbert.

## Old Business

- Back to School Picnic – no chair this year – no preorders this year -- \$185 from Potomac Pizza earned for the Picnic -- Girl Scouts did the candy booth
- Thanked parents who baked for the picnic
- Carmen's also present and will be at most events with the Italian Ice
- Membership agreed that no pre-orders for the Spring Picnic but something besides pizza should be offered.
- Acknowledge Vince from Bar-T. Bar-T will provide childcare for Back to School for \$5 a child. Bar-T willing to provide moon bounces and other activities at PTA events at no cost.

## New Business

Run Club Request \$250 budget request to purchase health snacks. A motion to appropriate \$250 to fund snack and fluids for each participant and prizes/incentives for each week of the running club was defeated. In favor 12; Opposed 16

A motion for PTA to pay up to \$100 for healthy snacks for run club for one time gift if participating parents are not capable of funding snacks passed. 5 opposed 20 in favor.

- Mrs. Meadow's request – Hire an accompanist for winter and spring concerts (4 concerts) as it cannot be paid out of music budget – will be paid from Fine Arts Budget.
- Ms. Slater's Request – Building service manager to upgrade staff lounge. Paint, sofa and coffee table. A request for donations will be placed in the flash.
- Paypal – small percentage to use it. Try for a year and see what happens. No opposition to pursuing.
- School spirit -- tabled
- Room parents – new coordinator – use room parents to assist in getting more volunteers for PTA. Information session in later September.

- Beall ES has brand new website for PTA. We use county so no fee. For under \$200 could have interactive website. Members urged to check Beall website to see if that is the direction CGES should take.

## Announcements

Cultural Arts Assembly – October 6<sup>th</sup> – Barynya, “From Russia with Music, Dance, and lots of Love” – families and siblings invited to attend.

September 14<sup>th</sup> MCCPTA Capital Improvement Plan Committee Meeting, 7-9 pm at Carver Educational Center

## Next Meeting

October 4, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., school cafeteria

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:06 p.m. and passed unanimously.