

MINUTES

College Gardens Elementary School PTA Minutes

February 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Green, President at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance

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

January Meeting Minutes approved by voice vote.

President's Report

All PTA membership cards were distributed by Jen Green to members except to parents whose last name was different than their child's last name. While this information is in the directory, this required more time than Jen Green had. Jen Green solicited membership present at the meeting to see if anyone was willing to distribute these remaining cards (about 40), which would require a little research and Crista Oehler stepped up and agreed to do this. Jen Green gave her the cards and thanked Crista for agreeing to do this.

A question was asked the importance of membership cards, and Jen Green explained that is voting situations sometimes it is necessary to verify PTA membership; that only card holding members can officially vote and not transferable - ex: husband cannot vote if only wife carries membership. Also, Ron Hayes reminded membership that on the back of the card was the password to the members-only portion of the MD PTA website where resources are located.

Membership Report

No report

VP of Communications Report

Rachel Navarro who does the Wednesday packets and Eric Van Ryzin are open to ways to improve communications. Contact Eric or Rachel if you have ideas. The Teacher Liaison was asked to take back to teachers that handouts need to go home on Wednesdays.

The PTA was gifted a website by Lance Simon several year ago. His children no longer attend College Gardens. The fee is \$13/year or \$65/5 years and he is looking to transfer the cost back to the PTA.

Currently, families are automatically sent the NewsFlash and must opt out of NewsFlash. There was a discussion about automatically putting families on electronic Wednesday packets and having families opt out if they want to receive paper flyers.

VP of Fundraising Report

Linda mentioned that while we may not be raising a lot of money from the Community Dinners, restaurants are providing gift cards for other events like Family Fun Night. Crista Oehler mentioned a couple of fundraisers that other schools do that make lots of money. One was a two week read-a-thon and students got pledges for the number minutes they read. Another was a jog-a-thon. There was a discussion about doing one big annual fundraiser. However, do we need to have an item in mind that we are raising money for like another portable laptop cart or rugs for the classrooms.

Treasurer's Report

We received from Box tops \$824 submitted another \$200. We will surpass our budget for box tops this year. We raised \$170.00 from the California Tortilla Community Dinner. The PTA paid for a patrol luncheon. The PTA also pays site fees upfront for events like family movie night and a license to show movies. The license can also be used by the school to show movies in the classrooms.

Some supplies was missing when family movie night came. It is fine to use the supplies if you have a PTA event but please notify PTA board so supplies can be replenished.

There was a question about 5th grade moving on ceremony expenses. The current amount spent is from last year because a receipt was turned in late. This year still has \$1000 to spend. The PTA won't penalize this year's ceremony for last year's mistake. Only the PTA president can enter into a PTA contract. Parents spend money upfront for costs and then submit for reimbursement.

The PTA will need a new treasurer next year as Ron is term limited. It is important to have someone learn from Ron now.

Voice vote approves treasure report.

Secretary

Thank you card received from Sarah Meadows for providing an accompanist for the choral concerts.

MCCPTA Reps

A pre-meeting with Bruce Crispell regarding growth was held before the last MCCPTA meeting. Growth driver according to the county is turnover of existing homes and students coming from private schools. Future school sites will be smaller than sites like College Gardens. The county is playing catch up on school sizing and additions because

funds and errors in forecasting the surplus for the budget. The county continues to face poor budget times. Families with current preschoolers will be affected by a possible delay in RMES #5 by County Exec. The County Exec proposes to push the school opening from 2015 to 2017. The cluster will be at 125% of capacity by time it opens. The explanation given is that the CRC needs permanent office space before the school is built saving around \$ 3 million. On Feb. 9th the cluster rep will testify at the County Council to support the Board of Education's budget. Postponement of the elementary school also affects Rockville APFO rules. We need everyone at the county council meeting. Council members are not interested in meeting with constituents until after the hearing. Turnout Thursday is important. So far over 165 people sent e-mails to county council and cc: pta e-mail. The PTA is hoping teachers and staff will show up to the county council meeting. The budget is not approved until May. Letters and e-mails can continue to be sent.

Principal's Report

Thank you to 2nd grade families for a great luncheon

County Council Meeting – Feb. 9th

4th and 5th grade awesome concert. Need bigger space for concerts.

March PTA meeting will have a presentation on cyber-bullying by the State's Attorney office.

Mrs. Rogovoy gave the Principal Update. She requests that Orbeez be left at home.

Staff Liaison

The luncheons make the teachers day. Thank you to the second grade families for the luncheon. Valentine's Day parties are on the 14th. 20th no school.

Kindergarten

- Have started PYP unit Survival of the Fittest, learning about environments, animals, and adaptations.

First Grade

- We are now working on comparing sizes and measuring length in non-standard units.
- Following measurement we will be working more on relationships and properties in addition and subtraction through 10; fact families. We will also look at unknown numbers in an addition or subtract story problem with three whole numbers.
- We are finishing up the unit "Cha-Cha-Changes" and are presenting the results of science experiments.
- Our new unit called "Roam Around" has just begun. The central idea of the unit is how humans use geographic tools to learn about the world. We will explore this

unit by looking at the different types of maps, purposes of geographic tools, and how different explorers use(d) various geographic tools to learn about the world.

Second Grade

- We are starting our new PYP unit “All good writers,” learning about how writing can communicate ideas.
- The students are writing a creative story that they will turn into a real picture book by the end of the unit.
- The fourth and fifth graders will be working one on one with each second grader to help improve their writing skills for this unit and all the students are very excited for this new unit.
- In math we are learning about measurement.
- In reading we are working on plot and point of view.

Third Grade

- We’ve started our energy unit as well as our geometry unit in math.
- Next week students will be researching an energy source and planning to build their web site using web-blender.
- In reading we are finishing up our historical fiction novels to work on nonfiction energy books finding main ideas and summarizing what we learn.
- We will also be working on test taking strategies and terms in preparation for the MSA’s in March.

Fourth Grade

- We are moving into our new PYP unit, “Slow and Steady Wins the Race.” Students will be reading, performing, analyzing, and writing fables!
- In math we are moving on to our next unit, which includes multiple digit multiplication and division. We will also explore equivalent periods of time.
- We will begin reviewing our test taking skills in preparation for the MSAs in March.

Fifth Grade

- Thank you to all parents who attended our 5th grade parent information session last night! It was very successful!
- Turn in your Family Life & Disease Prevention permission form due ASAP, latest by March 9th.
- Our Philadelphia field trip is on Thursday, March 29th – please send in permission forms and money ASAP.

PBIS Presentation

Positive Behavioral Interventions is in its 3rd year at College Gardens. It is a researched based program that infused and integrated IB attitudes (respect, cooperation, and integrity).

It is a proactive positive process. Research shows the program improves education and social skills. Consistency is key and the program is school wide. Students and staff help in developing the program.

Progress is monitored daily, monthly, yearly. 80% of children were on green for the month of January. PBIS is a tiered system similar to RTI used for academic achievement.

The parent's role is to continue PBIS at home and take an active role in child's learning.

Are there tools that can be put on the website? Can cue sheets for the substitute teachers and volunteers be developed to reinforce the program? Can the presentation be placed on the school website?

Old Business

Playground shade – next week meeting – no update

Recess equipment – bought some games and balls – Gegi will follow up with Kate Savage.

PTA supply closet is still upstairs in Mr. Dushel's office. It will be moved to the phone room in the teacher's lounge.

New Business

Family Fun Night is Friday, February 24, 2012. There will be lots of raffle items including items from teachers. The theme is winter wonderland. There will be pre-sale raffle tickets. The committee still needs volunteer parents and high schoolers.

Rugs – follow up with Mr. Ewald is needed on the purchase of rugs for the primary grades. It was unclear from his e-mail whether the school would purchase the rugs or whether the PTA is needed. Mrs. Johnson also indicated that several teachers do not have rugs because they were thrown away last summer.

The FRICK Fund is a fund from the PTA to pay for after-school activities for families who have financial need. There is a need for transparency to ensure everyone knows the process to access the fund and how it will operate. The AP and School Counselor will work on the process.

There were several requests from the Fine Arts staff. A motion was approved by voice vote to buy a three level cart for Mr. Karpf from one times gift fund up to \$500.

Another motion passed by voice vote to purchase organizational supplies, art supplies, art movies and ribbons for 5th grade chorus participation out of fine arts budget not to exceed \$400.

There is a free science expo that conflicts with CGES science fair on April 28, 2012. A couple of parents offered to assist staff but there are no staff volunteers at this time to run the science fair. Several JW and RM students are interested in showing kids how science

progresses. Some possibilities raised was to change the date and maybe hold it during the book fair or partner with Montgomery College. Montgomery College runs a science fair. Mrs. Rogovoy will follow up with Montgomery College.

The PTA is seeking volunteers for the nominating committee who will search for people to serve on the PTA board. The nominating committee does not serve of the PTA board but reaches out to the school community to find people interested in serving.

The FLES coordinator is resigning. He is willing to train and work with you through the Spring session. Official training is happening soon. If someone does not step up, it will go away. The PTA board will not do this. A parent volunteer is necessary to coordinate this after-school activity.

Cultural Heritage Night is coming up on Friday, March 23, 2012. Parents are needed to represent a country and run a table.

PTA meeting was closed at 9:38 pm.

Next Meeting

March 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., APR