

MINUTES

College Gardens Elementary School PTA Minutes

January 3, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Green, President at 7:03 p.m.

In attendance

Jen Green, Eric Van Ryzin, Jen Halper, Nancy Paul, Linda Sankanung (board members)

Absent: Ron Hays, Gegi Leeger

December Meeting Minutes approved by voice vote.

President's Report

No report.

Membership Report

No report

VP of Communications Report

Wednesday flyers will start again on Jan. 4, 2012. If making flyer copies, please make 580 copies. The number will be posted near the copier machine. Feb 1st is the next outside flyer day.

President indicated that she likes the updated Flash.

VP of Fundraising Report

The last community dinner was at California Tortilla. The PTA raised \$178 for the December Community Dinner. The next event is January 30th at Mama Wok. It's the 3rd year there. All those attending on January 30th will receive a complimentary soup in celebration of Chinese New Year. Dinners planned through May.

Linda is soliciting other fundraising ideas. She prefers that we not ask families to sell anything.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer is ill and not present at the meeting. He did not receive the December bank statement yet. Piano and FLES money has come in but we will be paying it out. The PTA paid for the directory printing and Cultural Arts Assembly.

Escrip is still \$1,000 under budget. The PTA is still determining why we are over 350 families below last year's participation. We are past the deadline for entering in information, but Safeway is continuing to allow us until March.

Treasurer's report accepted by voice vote

Box tops check received for over \$800 and submitted for \$200 more. Thank you Mary Ann Hays for processing the box tops.

Secretary

Thank you card received from Faith Adler for book fair books and the lunch provided by the PTA. Secretary has membership cards.

MCCPTA Reps

There was no meeting in December. Tomorrow is a funding for our school forum. This forum is for the operating budget. It is being held at Carver at 7:30 pm. MCCPTA reps can't make it.

January 18th our cluster will be giving testimony for operating budget to the Board of Education. If you have any input for testimony please forward to the board. In March, there will be a hearing before County Council on Capital Improvement budget. The 5th Elementary School and JW addition still not officially approved.

Principal's Report

Thanks to the 2nd grade for the Lorax performance. 5th grade chorus did a great job at White Flint Mall.

The Next Superintendent Book Club: "Drive" by Daniel Pink

- Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2012
- Location: Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville
- Time: 7:00 p.m.
- Dr. Starr has selected "[Drive](#)" by [Daniel Pink](#) for his book club discussion on January 31. Parents, staff, students, and the community are invited to join the discussion as members of the studio audience. Viewers at home who wish to participate will be able to watch online or on TV and join the discussion via Twitter and email.
- Those interested in being a part of the studio audience, please RSVP to pio@mcpsmd.org.

Board of Education Operating Budget Hearings

- Carver Educational Services Center (CESC)
- 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
- Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 18, 7:00 p.m.

Winter weather is coming soon. Stay on top of school closures, delayed openings or early dismissals by subscribing to the MCPS QuickNotes email news service, Alert MCPS or Twitter. Learn more about weather decisions on the MCPS emergency information website.

Visitor Management System – implementation after winter break. It is installed onsite. It is cumbersome. Cross referencing license info with a national database. If no license, then type in name. All Montgomery county schools will eventually have this. Helps collect volunteer hours. Staff trained on how to handle someone who is not allowed into the school. Administrators will handle that. Only during school instructional day. Next week will begin to test VMS. The computer does not store license information other than name and hours in the school.

Outdoor recess – wet snow inside, dry snow outside. Temperature threshold is 28 degrees for outside.

Speakers for upcoming PTA meetings:

IB/PYP – February Meeting -- Dushel

PBIS – March Meeting -- Rubiera

Cyber Bullying from State’s Attorney – Montgomery county increase – April Meeting

Hired additional lunch/recess aide and Assistant Building Services Manager

Dates to Remember:

- Wednesday, January 4 Monthly Connect ED Test Message
- Friday, January 6 4th Grade Field Trip; Imagination Stage, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, January 9 Chinese Immersion Program Parent Information Night; Media Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 10 4th Grade Chorus Performs; All Purpose Room, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 11 MCPS Board of Education Operating Budget Hearing; Auditorium – CESC, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 11 5th Grade Chorus Performs; All Purpose Room, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 13 Highly Gifted Center Testing for Selected 3rd Grade Students; Media Center, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- Monday, January 16 Holiday; Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, Schools & Offices Closed
- Wednesday, January 18 MCPS Board of Education Operating Budget Hearing; Auditorium – CESC, 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 23 No School for Students, Professional Day for Teachers
- Tuesday, January 24 Lunar New Year Celebration; Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade Students, All Purpose Room, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Assistant AP

Please bundle kids up for recess

Staff Liaison

No school 16th and 23rd. Marking period ends the 20th. Feb. 1st report cards.

Kindergarten:

- Finishing up “Let’s Find Out” unit in the next couple of weeks.
- Working on Research process and transferring research into a PowerPoint presentation.
- Presentations will be coming up the next few weeks.
- New unit is “Survival of the Fittest”.

First Grade:

- The first graders are working on the unit Cha-Cha- Cha Changes. We have been learning about the scientific method through science experiments. The unit is connected to writing and reading to perform a task. We have been investigating magnets and learning what types of materials they attract.
- Our reading lessons have included comparing and contrasting characters in stories and to ourselves. We have looked at words and phrases which suggest feelings or appeal to our five senses.
- In math we have worked on composing and decomposing numbers using double tens frames. We have also learned a fact family includes the same two addends and a sum. We are still working on word problems which have three addends.
- Our next unit of study will be Roam Around.

Second Grade:

- We want to thank all the parents for supporting our students during the musical. We had a great turn out for our second grade musical.
- We are now working on our new unit May the Force be with you, in which students are learning about how technological innovations impact people’s lives.
- In reading we are focusing on non-fiction and what the main idea of a non-fiction text is.

- In math we will be working to add and subtract with money.

Third Grade:

- Third Grade will be continuing to learn about factors, products and multiples in math.
- Family interviews for our Generations throughout Time unit are due back by January 6th so we can complete our family timeline and compare our culture and history with the characters in our historical fiction novels.
- We will be bringing in an artifact or a picture of an artifact that is important to our family to discuss cultural beliefs and values later in the month, as well as learning about geographical features and how they influence cultures.

Fourth Grade:

- We are continuing our “We are the world” unit! Kids are studying the connection between geographic features and culture. They will be studying countries this and next week, examining the land and culture of a chosen country. Next, they will be creating their own countries and describing the culture of the people who would live there. Very exciting!
- We will be reading realistic fiction texts in our literature circles.
- In math, we are continuing our unit examining fractions, decimals, and percentages.
- Our field trip this Friday is to Imagination Stage.
- Our chorus concert is coming up next week on Tuesday, January 10th at 7pm

Fifth Grade:

- We are soon wrapping our unit of “So, Who’s In Charge?” about different forms of government. Afterwards, we will begin “People Revolt”, a government unit about revolutions throughout the world and history.
- Our chorus concert is coming up next week on Wednesday, January 11th at 7pm
- 5th grade Family Life unit will be in March; a parent information session will happen prior. Look for information soon.

Old Business

Playground shade – next week meeting – no update

Recess equipment – bought some games and balls

PTA supply closet – movie supplies has been moved but paper is still moving

New Business

Family Movie Night on January 20th at 7 pm – Movie is “Up”

Family Fun Night on February 24th – Winter Theme (Penguins)

Parent's Forum

Math concerns – parents are concerned they are not getting enough information to support their children in math. Another parent shared the following websites to help parents in understanding more of the math.

www.khanacademy.org

www.illuminations.net

The summation assessments are no longer being given. There are ongoing assessments in different ways.

Mr. Dushel is working on doing the IB newsletters again.

Family Math Night did not get the grant. PTA approved \$300 from special requests to fund family math night. Maybe a possible parent break out session.

No update on field day t-shirts. Mr. Ewald has not had a vendor follow up meeting and urged the PTA to move forward on its own.

Announcements

January 4 -- Funding for our Schools Forum – 7:30 pm at Carver

January 10 – 4th grade Chorus Concert

January 11 – 5th grade Chorus Concert

January 18 – RM Cluster Operational Budget Testimony at Board of Ed

January 20 – Family Movie Night

January 16 and 23 – No School

January 24 – Lunar New Year Celebrations – 9:30 and 2:30

January 30 – Community Dinner – Mama Wok, 595 Hungerford Dr, Rockville (by Giant). We are celebrating Chinese New Year (Year of the Dragon)

Motion to adjourn 8:12 pm. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Next Meeting

February 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., APR