

Creek Valley PTA Executive Board
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2010-9:30am

Present: Co-Presidents Carin Mehan and Beth Hanson, Co-President-Elect Eric Bjelland, Treasurer Rhondi Miller, Treasurer-Elect Kara Stechmann, Secretary Suzanne Klein, Site Council Representatives Shanna Flynn and Kimberley Barrett, and Principal Kari Dahlquist.

Absent: Co-President-Elect Joan Bjelland, although the scones she sent were delicious!

I. Call to Order (Carin/Beth)

The meeting was called to order at 9:33am.

II. Report of Committees

-Scholastic Book Fair

The Book Fair team (Sue Walker, Ina Selzler, Annie Clark) came to give an overview of their upcoming event. Sue reported that they have started promoting the book fair. They are going to a workshop this afternoon.

They reported the following schedule for the book fair:

Mon, Feb 8

Books delivered by Scholastic before 4:00

Set-up in gym 4:00

Tue, Feb 9

Faculty preview 8:00-9:15

Student previews during the school day

Book fair open 4:00-8:00

Ice cream social in cafeteria 6:30-8:00

Move books to main hallway 8:00

Wed, Feb 10

Book fair open 9:00-4:00

Thu, Feb 11

Book fair open 9:00-1:00

Pack up 1:00

Fri, Feb 12

Books picked up by Scholastic

They are planning some fun promotions like locker bingo. The theme this year is "diner".

After reviewing the ice cream social, Carin suggested that the committee contact Diana Santrizos (Food and Nutrition Committee) who has a connection to Kemps.

Eric asked if the book fair is a money maker. Sue said that, yes, it raises money which goes directly to the media center.

III. Approval of Agenda (Carin)

The agenda was approved.

IV. Review/Approval of November Meeting Minutes (Suzanne)

The minutes were approved with changes.

V. Report of Officers

-Treasurer's Report (Rhondi/Kara)

-Budget Review

Rhondi went through the November and December budget report. She reported that Gift Wrap netted a total of \$11,594 in income in November. She also reported income for the Gingerbread Party at \$380. Rhondi reported that calculators seem to be making a profit. Carin said that we do get a small profit on calculators, but the the \$471 net profit YTD is most likely due to selling previous year's inventory. There was a profit of \$322 reported for Directory Expense. This was due to the extra directories printed for the New Families Night. School Store also has been reporting profits in November and December of \$674 and \$606, respectively. The expense of \$2,341 in December under "Staff Opportunity" will be moved to Bus/Playground Supervision as this relates to safety issues. Rhondi also reported an expense of \$686 for Junior Great Books in December.

Rhondi reported that we got a check for \$325 from Life Touch. Kari said this probably is related to re-takes. Rhondi will check with Judy regarding this.

-Status of PTA membership dues to MN PTA

Rhondi said this will be mailed this week.

-Status of IRS Form 990

Carin signed off on this form; it will be submitted this week.

-Status of NSF follow-up and non-dues paying volunteer leaders

Kara reported that the NSFs totaled to \$252. There were three committee chairs who have not joined PTA. The bylaws state all committee chairs need to be dues-paying members. Kara will follow up regarding this.

-President's Report (Carin/Beth)

-Grants/Donations update

Carin reported that the field trip grant was denied. She also reported that \$1,000 was provided by LifeTime Fitness Foundation for the stability balls request submitted by the teachers Gamble, Rink, Hawkinson, Wenkus, and Wenner.

-Implementation of "suggestion box"

In lieu of a survey, the board will implement a PTA suggestion box. The rationale behind this decision includes: capturing not just parent feedback, but also student and teacher input; and receiving real-

time feedback, which is essential to the co-Presidents-Elect when strategic planning for the next school year. Suzanne mentioned having an online equivalent for those parents who cannot come in to the school as frequently.

-Contributions to PFN/email to volunteer leaders

Carin asked if there were any contributions to this week's Pause for News. Eric asked if she could include something regarding the nominating committee.

-Status of Bylaws

Carin heard back from state. They had 2 suggested changes. One regarding the date for the adoption of the bylaws (the board agreed to Feb. 28th). And the other regarding Article 10. The Board unanimously approved the changes. Carin will e-mail a final copy to the board and a copy will be stored in the red box in Kari's office.

-Fundraisers Discussion

There was much discussion throughout the meeting regarding possible alternative fundraisers. Carin mentioned that the kiosk outside Cornelia stated their 5th grade art sale netted \$2,900. Kara mentioned learning of a school fundraiser selling trash bags. The (similar sized) school made \$38,000. Another fundraiser she learned about was a Chili dinner just for parents with a live and silent auction. This netted about \$25,000-\$30,000. (The parents paid a fee to get in.) Carin said that, regarding fundraisers, 5th graders in 5-SAC reported just wanting games. They also think such large baskets are unfair. They also would like outdoor events. Beth mentioned having an outdoor movie night. Kara said an outdoor movie was part of the progressive dinner last year. The parents loved it.

-Co-President's Report (Eric)

-PLC Report

Eric reported that the district and teacher contract did not pass. There was discussion regarding the Countryside 1st grade teacher issue with injured back. There was further discussion regarding the district's three level studies. Their focus is on middle school achievement, where the results have not been as high. The district hired an architect to look at the middle school building to make changes that might help middle school students. There was discussion regarding the percentage of minorities in the elementary schools, particularly regarding the discrepancies between schools. (Kim asked where the Edina schools stand on this, Kari reported that Cornelia has the highest percentage of minorities at 20%, Creek Valley has 15% (which qualifies us as a title 1 school), Highlands and Normandale only have about 1%. Kari said they are looking into ways to shift this around, possibly encouraging minorities to try CP or French Immersion.) Eric reported that there was discussion regarding the "Race to the Top"—part of the stimulus package (Edina could get up to \$2 million each year for the next 4 yrs if Minnesota wins this). Minnesota looks pretty good for winning. Incentive pay for teachers (QComp) and testing are two areas of consideration for the award.

-Nominating Committee Update

Eric gave the Executive Board the list of Nominating Committee Candidates. The Nominating Committee was unanimously approved.

-2010-11 Committees/Chair Update

Eric reported that they are working on locking in the chairs for the first part of the school year. Eric mentioned that he likes the idea of exploring a biodegradable trash bags fundraiser since Edina will be changing to biodegradable trash bags soon.

-Site Council's Report (Shanna/Kimberly)

Shanna reported that the School Store was discussed. The teachers have reported several issues regarding having the school store open during school. The kids buy trinkets, then have them in the classroom; also, some students always bring money, some bring a lot of money, and some never bring money. They suggested perhaps this could be a special event thing and not during school. The issue is especially big for Kindergarteners. Teachers recommend keeping the school store, but only at adult functions. Carin recommended we discuss with Cindy the need to decrease the small item inventory, especially as the school year comes to an end. Additional recommendations discussed, but not agreed upon included keeping the school store during the day, having the 5th graders run it, selling no toys, selling school spirit items, and only allowing older grades (3-5) to use it. Co-Presidents-Elect will visit this topic further during their strategic planning for next year.

-Principal's Report (Kari)

- In regard to volunteer t-shirts for Impact Lives volunteers, rather than having PTA pay for Go MAD shirts, we could use the green t-shirts already in the storeroom.
- A staff clerical day is scheduled for February 1, conferences on March 4, and an in-service day on March 5.
- The second round of MAPs tests for grades 1 and 2 are coming up.
- Data conferences in November went well (using MAP scores). Conference feedback was requested.
- Open House received rave reviews from staff in regard to the earlier time frame. Staff suggested adding a social aspect to the evening, e.g., cookies or lemonade or something simple but social would be nice.
- Kari reported that the RTI coffee attracted a few parents; meetings don't tend to be big draws. It was discussed that the morning time was difficult for families.
- Kari reported that the DCD/ASD (developmentally cognitively delayed/autism spectrum disorder) program has 6 students and is going well.
- Beth Brandt had her baby in November and that Tess Brolin is her long-term substitute.
- Sandy Stein's husband died of a heart attack recently.
- Creek Valley is Title 1 school (based on % of students who qualify for free/reduced lunch).
- Costco donated 8 work tables for Kindergarten/raffle.
- The teacher contract didn't pass. Because the contract did not pass by January 15, Edina will lose \$230,000 from the state.
- Kari reported on two new positions in the district: Director of Technology, Steve Buettner, and Director of Research and Evaluation, Chad Schmitt.
- The Imagination Fair was fun and very well attended. (Eric said that 3-4 times more kids come to Imagination Fair than Math night and asked if we should we do Imagination Fair every year.) It used to be every year but is now every other year in attempt to make families' calendars less overwhelming.
- The annual Historical perspectives speaker/performer this year was Helen Keller who was fabulous!
- GCF should be a future PTA agenda item. It acts as an adjunct committee, and is the umbrella for World Cultures Day, Impact Lives, and the International Festival, among other things. Kari recommends that it become a PTA committee. Carin suggested Eric and Joan be a part of future discussions.
- Kari reported on the Student Service Council. Each fifth grade group gets to go on a service field trip. If we continue with this, we need to pay for a bus four times a year, and this item would need to be added to next year's budget. Stacey Cavanaugh and Peter Wuest are the chairs and they both really like doing this. Kari mentioned that we could send a social worker as staff so teacher doesn't have to leave the classrooms.

VI. Announcements/Adjourn (Carin/Beth)

Carin said carnival leaders will be coming to the February meeting. She stated that she and Beth will run the February and March meetings and that Eric and Joan will run April and May. She reminded us that February 4th is the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Suzanne Klein.