

**Creek Valley PTA Executive Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2010 9:30am**

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

Absent: Co-President Beth Hanson.

I. Call to Order (Carin)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. Visit by Lane Rossiter-Teacher of the Year Award

Lane Roster came to the meeting on behalf of Huntington Learning Center. They are striving to get more recognition for the Teacher of the Year award. She stressed that parents, teachers, students—anyone can nominate a teacher. She said that most nominations are from elementary schools. Kari said that there have been 3 Teachers of the Year here at Creek Valley in the last decade. Kari said that this is the first year that Huntington Learning Center has been involved.

III. Approval of Agenda (Carin)

The agenda was approved.

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

The minutes were approved.

V. Report of Officers

-Treasurer's Report (Rhondi/Kara)

Rhondi reported that the Book Fair was the largest source of income for February. The Media Center receives \$2,500 in cash, \$2,000 in books, and \$1,000 in scholastic dollars. The Ice Cream Social netted \$235. Rhondi said that the additional Room Party Income includes late PTA dues. Rhondi also reported that \$1000 was paid to the accountants to do our taxes. She also reported that the school store made profits this month.

-President's Report (Carin)

-Grants/Donations

Carin said that teachers Rosie Rink and Stacey Cavanaugh sent a request for one additional ball for each. After attending the training, they discovered that the teacher needs a ball as well. Kari ordered extra 2 balls for them.

-Carnival Raffle Donation by PTA Executive Board

Carin said that each year the PTA is requested to buy an Edina pool pass for family of 4 for a Carnival Basket. The board voted on this and the motion was approved. Rhondi will assure this is added to budget yearly going forward.

-Contributions to PFN/email to volunteer leaders

Eric and Joan have contributions and will get them to Carin today.

-Review suggestion box comments

Carin reported the following submissions to the suggestion box: compliments on book fair, impact lives, PTSA, and carnival; and suggestions for a book drive for needy kids, longer recess, bringing treats back, and having a blue/red day for Haiti. Regarding the book drive, there was extensive discussion regarding past book drives and current efforts. Carin raised the idea of having a used book drive for our library. Kari mentioned that extra books from the carnival book walk are often donated to the library. The board agreed to give this suggestion to the carnival chair.

-Strom retirement

Carin sought board input on gift ideas for Mr. Strom's retirement as the PTA traditionally provides a gift to retiring teachers. The board agreed to do as we have done with past retirees—a \$100 VISA gift card.

-April & May Board Meetings

Carin reminded the board that the April and May meetings will be run by Eric and Joan Bjelland. She suggested that the May meeting would be a good time for all out-going board members to bring all collected materials to transition to in-coming board members. In addition, Carin suggested Joan, Eric, Rhondi, and Kara prepare, in advance, a draft 2010-2011 budget for review at our May meeting.

-Co-Presidents Elect

Eric asked Kari if she knew the outcome of the teacher vote at the PLC meeting. Kari reported that she did not know the outcome. Eric reported that the PCN speaker Peter Benson was fantastic. He spoke about finding “sparks” for children. If their spark is identified and nurtured, they are more likely to succeed. Eric reported that Minnesota did not get into the final 16 states in the Race to the Top. The preliminary reason for not making the cut: we failed in the area of alternative licensing. This means the potential of \$2 million coming to Edina won't happen.

Eric provided a handout summarizing Fundraisers across Edina public schools. Over the spectrum, school carnivals and gift wrap are the top two money-makers.

Eric reported that the Nominating committee results are in: Bonnie Smith and Julie James are candidates for Co-Presidents-Elect, Chelsea Korsh is the candidate for Treasurer, Deb Hanson is the candidate for Secretary, and Eleni Glerum is the candidate for Site Council. The Board approved the list of candidates. Carin confirmed that the next move is for the names go on a ballot and be sent home in backpacks for a school-wide vote. Eric said they would get this done before spring break.

Eric reported the following recommendations for modifications to the committee structure for 2010/2011: Bravo and Art Explorers will be removed due to repetition with Art and Music specialists, Nuts and Bolts will be removed, and the Legislative Liaison will be removed because it is the co-president's duty. \$2,500 will be added to the budget for Global Citizen Fund, \$1,000 will be added for Student Service Council Buses, and \$595 will be added for Cultural Speaker Jack Peal. Eric also noted that for next year, they are considering ways to reduce the operating expenses to offset the additional funding obligations. Eric said that he and Joan are working on securing committee chairs.

Eric gave the board a fund raising update. They decided that gift wrap cannot be replaced as of yet. Eric said that while the trash bag idea is good, Minnesota state laws regarding trash bags are changing and these company's bags do not conform to the new laws. Eric proposed a parent only event at the Edina Country Club that would include a wine and cheese tasting and possible silent/live auction running at about \$100/couple. He estimates we could make about \$3,000 based on 100 couples attending. Braemar is another option for this event that would be less expensive, but more difficult to plan. There

was much discussion involving place and timing (Nov. 12). The overall consensus was to go ahead with it at Edina Country Club.

-Site Council's Report (Shanna/Kimberly)

Shanna reported that the teachers didn't like any of the alternative student planners that were presented at the meeting. Kimberly said their main objection was that the planners did not show an entire week at once.

-Principal's Report (Kari)

Kari addressed the issue of making known any large needs the school has (for PTA spending purposes). The teachers have not come forth with any ideas. Kari said that they are in need of additional Leveled Readers (\$4K per grade level for a whole set; would possibly run about \$10,000 for the school). The school also needs more computers as MCAs will be online next year and many are using fast math on the computer.

Kari reported that the last round of MAPs testing is in progress this month.

Kari said that there are budget discussions going on at district level. She said that class size is not a likely area for cuts.

Carin mentioned that the acronym web page Kari put up on the Creek Valley website is helpful. Carin asked if this could be available on the district website. Kari said she will bring that up with the district.

VI. Report by Committee Chairs

There were no committee chairs reporting today.

VII. Announcements/Adjourn (Carin)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Suzanne Klein.