

REVISED MEETING MINUTES

Chango Elementary PTA Meeting

Location: Chango Cafe

Date: April 25, 2011

Seventh meeting of the school year 2010-2011 commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: N. Day, K. Calhoun, M. Flaherty, K. Ferguson, G. Litvaitis, M. Vlacich, S. Roy, A. Quattrocchi, D. Canterbury, A. Cimino, W. Webster, K. Skarka, C. Shephard

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

President's Report (Karen Calhoun): Much news and many events were upcoming for Chango families, so Karen advised all to keep up with the weekly emails.

Principal's Report (Karin Skarka): May 3rd, 4th, and 5th are the dates students are taking the assessments. Scores are not reflected in the report cards. The tests assess our school's teaching. We assess whether some students need to have more opportunities in math and ELA. The testing will occur at the start of the day. Students encouraged to be to school on time these days. Times for specials will be adjusted.

The BOE have agreed on a budget. It is on the website. There is a board meeting tomorrow night. This is the budget that will be voted on. May 17th is the vote date.

Letters regarding teachers for next year will be coming home soon. Parents cannot request a teacher. The letters received from parents are shared documents with staff.

Activities in June for staff include creating common supply lists for each grade level with a \$30 cap on prices for supplies. Teachers will check off the items they would like students to have, then it will go online, hopefully by June 1st. The PTA can opt to do a preorder at that time.

The Hannaford construction zone and the new tech park being built have prompted our safety team to begin working on an evacuation procedure, being we are an off-campus elementary school. On staff development days, this drill has been practiced. Buses need to be included in the drill. Chango will be practicing an evacuation drill with two 5th grade homerooms. Parent volunteers will be involved. The emergency is getting the students connected with the proper adults. State Police and ambulance support will be involved. Mrs. Skarka will meet with the safety team and various school personnel, and the drill will be practiced. The school will evacuate the two 5th grade classrooms onto the buses, drive to HS West, and then come back to Chango. Post procedure, a discussion will be held with pros and cons of how the drill was carried out.

Krista proposed a question that if a real incident happened, how would Chango release information to parents. Mrs. Skarka stated that Kelly Deficiani could post information online on the Shen website,

email, SIS, parent portal, Twitter, and public radio. The first requirement is always to get the kids secure first, then notify families.

Noel Day asked about why parents of incoming kindergarteners have not yet been notified of an a.m. or p.m. session for their children. Mrs. Skarka stated that kindergarten enrollment is light for Chango, but other elementary schools have a higher enrollment. Karigon and Orenda border on Chango, and a shifting of students may be required to fill classrooms appropriately. Notification hasn't come out about a.m. or p.m. because assessment by the District hasn't been completed at this time. Also, the special education teachers and kindergarten teachers will be teaching together next year, so special education children will be integrated.

District liaison (Andrew McCarthy): Not present and no report was submitted.

Treasurer's Report (Suezen Brown): We have a \$1,500 profit for Shen All In, when we had originally budgeted for \$750. The prize money received from the game was designated for health and wellness activities. Coach Fersch had some ideas for the money we received from Shen All In, per Maureen Flaherty.

Suezen headed up a committee to update and revised the bylaws. After a discussion with the group, the bylaws were voted on by the membership present and passed (13-0).

All the main positions of the Board are open, due to the bylaws stating a single-term position, however, with the option of being able to run two years on the Board.

Sharyn Roy brought up concerns over whether a chairperson for a specific event will be held to a single term. The overall fear being not having an event due to no candidates chairing said event. Karen Calhoun didn't believe this to be a concern, and that a chairperson could chair an event more than one time so as to not cancel an event.

When the bylaws committee met prior to the PTA meeting, there was a concern of a committee chair being limited to 1 year term. The thought process behind this was to allow other folks who would like to run an event the opportunity to sign up to chair. Some folks feel that they can't because a certain person might "own an event".

Currently we have no candidates yet stepping forward for Krista's open position of VP of Events.

Fundraising update: (Danielle Canterbury/Maureen Flaherty): There are currently 140 pencil orders, 66 plant orders, and 60 people entered for the Fun Run. Fun Run registration is open until Friday, the 29th. There is only 1 volunteer for the Fun Run. There are many prizes to give away at the Fun Run, and families were encouraged to sign up.

Mrs. Skarka spoke of a Blue Cross Blue Shield grant for \$2500 which requires a photo montage of kids performing healthy activities. Pictures will be taken at the Fun Run, of 2nd grade kids making a garden, and we are looking for this grant to sustain the Chango garden.

Karen Calhoun stated we received a grant at the beginning of the school year which was put towards Book in a Bag. We will not have as many expenses from that program, so more money falls to the bottom line. We will have a nice carryover into the next school year.

VP of Events (Krista Ferguson): Pre-K program is upcoming, where incoming kindergarteners can meet the teachers, nurse, ride a bus, meet principal, and meet Mrs. Shinski in the computer lab. Krista needs a helper on the 5th and the 12th. Krista would like to have someone take over this program for next year.

Gigi Litvaitis gave an update on the ladies' dance. The DJ was secured, and food donations were encouraged. She requested a list of helpers from Krista.

Teacher's Appreciation Week is May 2nd-6th. A teacher's breakfast will take place Monday of teacher's appreciation week to kick start activities. Idalia Sepulveda is chairing the teacher's appreciation week. The luncheon for the teachers occurs on Friday, the 6th, and the need to sign up for donations was discussed.

Sharyn Roy is the chairperson for the Chango talent show. The event will be held Friday, May 13th. Final tryouts are this Wednesday. There are approximately 26 acts. A rehearsal date conflict for the 11th was discussed. Concessions to be set up during intermission of the show.

Sharyn requested that when the new school calendar comes out for next year, to please change the talent show date to February, before the scheduled winter break. Karen Calhoun concurred.

Reminders for the ice cream social/reflections ceremony/science fair, all to be held on Monday, May 16th. Gigi brought up the concern over no ice cream being made available for the students involved with the science fair last year and if we could reserve the ice cream for them this year. The ice cream is free this year. Mrs. Skarka noted that we have 100 participants for the science fair this year.

A reminder of re-enrollment for Tools for Schools with Price Chopper was given. An idea of bottle deposits as a PTA money maker was raised with the new Hannaford store coming in.

A meeting will be scheduled to set up the next year school calendar of events.

PTO Today (website) is expected to send Karen Cahoun Internet Safety Night materials.

Miscellaneous Discussions: Sharyn Roy raised the discussion of school flyers coming home late, citing the example of the Turn Off TV materials just coming home after the break. Mrs. Skarka stated that with staff planning meetings and activities and having substitutes in the classrooms, it can sometimes take a few days for the flyers to get from the teachers' mailboxes to the classroom for distribution. It was recommended that any copying and distributing of PTA materials be done earlier to order to get to the families in time to meet deadlines.

Ariana Quattrochi gave an update that she and Patrice VanHeusen are visiting Shatekon's book room and will report back to the PTA at the next meeting. Ariana also stated that she is having a PARP-B-Que

on May 26th to plan for next school year. She and her family will cook BBQ on the grill and asked if invited families could bring something to share.

Raffle winner: Sharyn Roy

Next (and last) PTA meeting of the year: May 23rd at 7pm (not AM as denoted in the calendar).