

CHANGO ELEMENTARY PTA MEETING

Location: Chango Library

Date: March 21, 2011

Sixth meeting of the school year 2010-2011 commenced at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

ATTENDEES: S. Szeli, D. Callahan, C. Benson, K. Skarka, C. Barbagelata, V. Legnard, D. Kern, A. Parker, M. Cocozzo, J. Donnelly, K. Gansle, P. VanHeusen, A. Quattrocchi, G. Litvaitis, M. Vlacich, S. Brown, N. Day, K. Calhoun, M. Flaherty

President's Report (Karen Calhoun): It was reported that bingo night was a success. Gigi Litvaitis' husband was the caller for the evening.

Odyssey of the Mind event, concession received \$334. Our PTA had an assessment of \$250 plus volunteer an hour and a half of time to receive our portion of the proceeds, which was \$84 net proceeds.

Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award: Danielle Canterbury.

The Chango PTA Bulletin Board is up to date with PTA news. It is the bulletin board when you first walk into the school.

Our contract with Images for Kids is up. We are currently going through the review process and will pitch this to the Board next month. Input from parents encouraged in this decision.

Conference call-in was discussed for future PTA meetings. Nancy Kincaid brought this up at last month's meeting with the hopes of bringing in more member involvement for the April and May PTA meetings.

Principal's Report (Karin Skarka): NYS testing is drawing near for students. Times for specials will be switched for the younger grades which will impact volunteer time in the classrooms.

Budget vote is May 17th at Gowana Middle school gym. Board meetings are available to be viewed online. Tomorrow night's Board meeting is a study session. The April 12th board meeting is going to adopt the budget.

Mrs. Skarka announced that parents may send in letters with suggestions on class placement for next year but emphatically stated no specific teacher requests. All of the staff are able to read the letters parents submit.

Update on the Mission Statement: Students decided on the phrase "Learning + Fun = Chango". Our art teacher will select some ideas, and students will vote on it.

District Liaison (Andrew McCarty): The budget meeting was a challenge. Assembly and Senate state Governor Cuomo wants to push money back into the districts at \$200 million. Parents are encouraged to go to Mr. McCarty's Facebook page (McCarty for Shen.com), which has a summary of Cuomo's budget and Senate and Assembly's proposals. Tomorrow night's Board meeting will contain a lot of insight. A salary freeze was requested of District employees. Administrators were willing to take a salary freeze. Dr. Robinson and his team were willing to take a salary freeze as well.

SHENSational is March 26th. Science and Discovery night will be more of an informational event with no selling (April 28th).

Conversations with the Superintendent are a great opportunity for the community to meet with Dr. Robinson and pose questions. The next Community Conversations meeting is April 17th.

Virtual Lobby Day: Letters can be sent by email to speak out to your State representatives about tax cuts, caps, etc. This is a form letter, and it is emailed right to the representatives. On March 22nd, everyone has an opportunity to respond. The Chango PTA would be emailing this form letter to families later this evening.

Gary DiLallo was recognized from Shenendehowa as Advocate of the Year.

Staff Report (Diane Callahan): Diane stated that the PTA is doing a great job. She complimented Nancy Kinkead and all her work with Arts in Ed and with teacher participation. Mrs. Barbagelata felt Arts in Ed was more organized this year. Mrs. Cocozzo and Mr. Donnelly concurred that everything is running smoothly from their perspective as well.

Interactive white boards for teaching and virtual field trips were discussed in regards to being a less expensive way to use Arts in Ed budget money. Karen Calhoun stated she will have Nancy look into this.

Mrs. Skarka noted that the book swap and PARP program were great.

PARP Update (Ariana Quattrocchi): Leftover books from the book swap were delivered to Parsons.

Fundraising (Maureen Flaherty): Spring fundraising events planned for spring included a plant sale, build a pencil program (which is environmentally friendly), and a spring fun run to be held Friday, May 6th, a half mile or mile run here at Chango. There will be fees only in the form of a flat fee for an individual or a larger entry fee for a family. There will be a raffle to win prizes for all entered (adult and kid friendly). There was a call for help to locate a digital timed clock for the fun run. Noel Day offered to check with the YMCA. The PTA is covered, liability wise, to hold such an event. Ariana Quattrocchi offered her husband, Sal's, services to help with first aid the day of the event. A request was made of Mrs. Legnard to volunteer for first aid for the fun run as well. Plants will be delivered that day, also. The Music Department has loud speakers for this event. Maureen requested a budget for the fun run. Karen Calhoun stated that their budget is to make ~\$2500 between all the fundraisers. If you have expenses, you incorporate those into your overall plan to bring in a net amount of \$2500, and a separate budget is not necessary.

Treasurer (Suezen Brown): No new budget information at this time.

Membership (Gigi Litvaitis): We did well this year in regards to membership totals. In 2008/2009, we had 210 members. 2009/2010, we had 241 members. The current school year, we have 269 members, thanks to teachers, whose membership is at 100%. The teachers will receive a couple of awards. During Teacher's Appreciation Week, teachers will receive a breakfast courtesy of the PTA for winning the membership race.

Shen All In Update (Noel Day): There is a poster contest being conducted by Sharyn Roy. There will be one winner per grade. The Chango game is slated for April 7th, and tickets were sold out. No new updates were available at this time, as the next meeting for the Shen All In event was scheduled for March 22nd.

Various Informational Updates (Karen Calhoun): Turn off TV Week will be conducted during April break with Idalia Sepulveda chairing the event.

Go Green Family Night: Karen saw this on PTO website to host a night in April for families to go green and reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Internet family safety night: Ability to pick up material and learn new things to get information out to public.

Talent Show to be held Friday, May 13th. This date will give enough time between fundraising events, Shen All In, and the drama club show. Auditions will be held, and Sharyn Roy is chairing this event.

Father daughter dance: To be held Friday, April 29th. Pictures will be going on magnets.

New Business: Update the Bylaws. Suezen Brown is willing to chair and form a committee.

Chango Kids Newspaper (Karin Skarka): We HAD a newspaper which was an after school activity. It was what was termed a unit event, and when the unit is spent, it's spent. We also had video broadcasting, which went away from the newspaper and went forward with technology. We have a set number of units and it's spent for this year. An adult needs to lead the effort. It can be an after school enrichment event or units.

Ariana Quattrochi: Leveled book rooms were discussed. We have no room for a book room at Chango, however, it can be started as traveling book carts and crates that can be shifted around. Shatekon and Skano currently have book rooms, and a tour is being set up for Ariana to attend. Ariana is also currently writing grants for money. Teachers were encouraged to donate scholastic points to buy books for a leveled book room. It would be for every student in the school. Kids could get a new book every day. Ariana feels that the students should be able to read higher than their grade level. The teachers agreed. Ariana asked if this idea could be put into the budget. Ariana will visit the other schools leveled book rooms and report back on this subject to further discuss.

Suezen Brown brought up the idea of a community garage sale and to use Chango as the selling site. A discussion of pros and cons was held regarding dates that don't conflict with other community events, fees, and not having the unsold items left at school.

Raffle winner: Kate Gansle

The next PTA meeting will take place on Monday, April 25th, at 7 p.m. in the Chango Café.