

Chango PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: May 23, 2011

Location: Faculty Lounge

Eighth meeting of the school year 2010-2011 commenced at 7 p.m.

Meeting minutes from April had not been amended in time for the meeting and therefore were not able to be approved.

Attendees: Meg Kniskern, Dawn Montague, Karen Calhoun, Suezzen Brown, Noel Day, Lisa Hodge, Danielle Canterbury, Gigi Litvaitis, Idalia Sepulveda, Krista Ferguson, Kristin Levy, Sharyn Roy, Allyson Cimino, Barb Buhmann, Maureen Flaherty

President's Report (Karen Calhoun): Voting of executive officers occurred.

Executive Board Nominees:

Treasurer: Suezzen Brown, continuing from prior year.

Secretary: Open. No nominations.

Vice President: Dawn Montague.

President: Karen Calhoun. Passed.

Under new bylaws.

Executive Board: Standing chairs are nominated by the President.

Fundraising: Maureen and Danielle.

Arts in Ed: Nancy Kinkead and Amy DeMarco

Membership: Gigi Litvaitis

Coordinator of Events: Meg Kniskern

Council Delegates: Suezzen Brown is expressing some interest and a possibility. One position is still open.

Shared Partnership Team: Individual works with staff and teachers and issues they are tackling. Two delegates are open and two nominees are Christina Cook and Krista Ferguson.

Vote on the budget: The proposed budget was discussed at length. The book room idea is not going to be voted on at this time.

VP of Fundraising (Danielle Canterbury): ASEP; Suezzen hasn't been billed entirely yet.

VP of Fundraising (Maureen Flaherty): Holiday craft night itemization. Holiday craft from a holiday shop night should be a separate line item. Karen asked if this event will be an annual event. Waiting on more information from Danielle and Maureen. Looking to do something on consignment for next year.

Idalia Sepulveda moves to pass the budget. All in favor and no opposed. Budget was unanimously approved.

Ariana Quattrocchi could not be present for tonight's meeting so her email was reviewed regarding a book room. Shatekon was visited by Ariana and Patrice VanHeusen. It would require little cost. Idalia asked if Patrice and Ariana start with it, who will maintain it long term? Meg asked what are Chango's needs? Can the money allotted be spent somewhere else? If the Basils are being taken away, what are the teachers needs? Danielle asked why isn't Chango paying for a book room and not the PTA. Karen assured us that Ariana would have no problem getting us more information. We are supporting her idea, the room tonight supported her idea, but we need more information. If we can understand what is going on with the current reading program, we can go from there. Book in a bag money can possibly be donated to this program. Grant money could be pursued for this program as well.

Mrs. Skarka said to only provide for 1st grade. Idalia Sepulveda stated there was not enough money to open up another grade. There is not enough grant money. 3rd grade was next targeted. This must be approved by Mrs. Skarka.

Karen said we will table this discussion and will speak with Ariana about it.

Principal's Report: Principal was not present, therefore no principal's report.

Liaison's Report: Liaison not present, therefore no liaison report.

Teacher's Report: No teachers present, therefore no teacher's report.

President's Report (Karen Calhoun): A thank you was given to all who had volunteered to chair, partake, and/or help a chairperson with an event. This school year's events had gone very well.

VP of Events (Krista Ferguson): The school does a thank you luncheon for the PTA volunteers, and it's on June 17th. People who have chaired events provide a list of their volunteers so they can be invited to this luncheon. Chairs are asked to complete an event report form which summarizes everything required for their particular event. This is especially important with a transition to the new VP of Events. Volunteers for the luncheon are to be invited. This is not for classroom moms unless they helped with a PTA event. Babysitting is provided for the kids as well during the luncheon.

School supply program: Forms will be going out at the end of this week, but this is not a mandatory program.

Field days is being termed Fun Days. There is a one day format this year. PTA will provide popsicles and fruit for the rest station. Coach Fersch needs volunteer help from the volunteers who signed up. June

9th is the date. Staff is going to be involved helping with the stations. Coach Fersch is working with Mrs. Skarka and staff. Ribbons may or may not be used.

Membership was asked to comment on the year's PTA events. The following comments were made:

Sharyn Roy asked when will the PTA events calendar meeting be held. Karen said in June with the official date to come, along with a survey and discussion.

Maureen Flahery said Shannon Silva had been doing the monthly newsletter and it stopped. Karen and Krista had not been giving her enough info to publish. Maureen liked the looking ahead section. Krista said that more than 3 people should be responsible for submitting information.

Meg Kniskern asked if there was a chairperson for communications. An idea was brought up to try using the website more to get information out. Maureen mentioned using the portal per Mrs. Skarka in a previous meeting.

Maureen mentioned she and Danielle wanted feedback from fundraising that occurred this school year. It was brought up that people didn't care for the ordering forms from the various vendor companies (i.e. Joe Corbi) in the fall, and if we can dispense with them the next year. Maureen confirmed we make a lot of money from this type of fundraising. The baskets were a great idea. Meg's idea was a silent auction. Karen said you can't gamble per the bylaws, etc. A Chinese auction was suggested, and items could be donated. A community garage sale was mentioned, with a map provided to the various sites, and Stewart's could possibly sell the maps.

Fun Run was addressed with a possible time of year change to get more people to join in. Brooke's night out was a big hit and a good idea to do again next year.

Meg brought up that movie nights seemed to fall on the Fridays before school calendar vacations. It was suggested that the father/daughter dance be more of a prom idea.

A fall BBQ will go on in the fall.

The different times of the PTA meetings each month was a good idea, as mentioned by Dawn Montague.

It was agreed that many new parents seem to be overwhelmed with the PTA events, and if they volunteer for an event, how long they might be needed, etc.

We are looking to have membership increase, possibly making it a competition. We need to have a target to shoot for though. Gigi reiterated that membership and paying membership fees isn't the only help, we need help from volunteers.

Suezen Brown brought up Ariana's ParpBQ, and if anyone had any interest in attending, teachers/staff included. Ari asked for a response. This can go out to the families via the PTA Weekly email. Per the bylaws, membership meetings do not have to occur every month, you only have to hold three—if we don't have something to vote on.

We definitely need more teacher involvement in PTA. Shen All In has high teacher participation. Perhaps the PTA needs to ask the teachers and staff directly.

Idalia Sepulveda said that we need to utilize the outside Chango sign board at the end of the parking lot more and keep the information current. Krista Ferguson indicated we have said no volunteers for it. PTA information board outside the office needs to be updated and kept current. The turn off TV week occurred at a bad time of the year this year. In regards to membership, we can try and email room parents to garner membership from their classroom parents. It was suggested if we can try to get more dads involved with PTA events this year.

Raffle winners: Noel, Krista, Sharyn, Maureen

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.