

Chango Elementary PTA Regular Meeting Agenda
Meeting of the general association
February 8, 2010
Meeting commenced at 7:05 pm, Chango Cafeteria

Idalia Sepulveda, President

Tina Harris, Secretary

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Weiner

Attendees: K. Calhoun, S. Roy, L. Marion, C. Cook, D. Montague, D. Canterbury, M. Flaherty, M. Blaauboer, D. Kinkaid, A. Quattrocchi, B. Schreiber, K. Skarka, G. Litvaitis

Art Curriculum at Chango: (Mrs. Weiner) Topic: Why do we offer our children art class? In art class, students are encouraged to be creative problem-solvers. They use critical thinking-making informed choices, their imaginations and skills to produce a project designed within a format (ex. 3-D fluorescent constructions). Every solution is different, unlike the answers to math, reading, and spelling. We need creative problem-solving skills to solve big 21st century problems like the ecology, industrial, technological advances-even economic ones. Luckily, most kids find art to be fun and a nice change from their more academic courses. I use a mix of kinds of projects: 2-D, 3-D, painting, drawing, and printmaking are just a few. The manipulation of materials helps develop eye/hand coordination and right brain thinking. Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain by Betty Edwards, is an important part of my art-teaching philosophy-tapping into a new inner resource. Art Club is for fifth graders. Miss Meager and I sponsor it. Students produce art outside their usual classroom work as an enrichment project. It is after school. Kids are invited to join Art Club because they are particularly interested in art and can work somewhat independently and responsible. There are about 20 children who are invited to join by the end of February; club starts in March. Mrs. Weiner took us on a “tour” of the artwork in the halls and the art classroom; she incorporates art history into each of her lessons. She is responsible for picking the art that gets submitted to the art shows that Chango participates in:

1. The end of the year show in May at the Clifton Park Mall
2. The Empire State show in Albany
3. BOCES Art show
4. Saratoga County Fair
5. Shensational show in March (cultural diverse projects)
6. Silver Graphics fund raiser items

She will notify the parents when a student’s piece has been selected for a show.
(Hard-copy of the Art Room Rules is available on request.)

Minutes from the January 11th meeting were read and approved with the correction of Mrs. Wendth’s name to Jean-Marie.

District Board Liaison Report: (Mary Blaauboer) There was a meeting of the 2010 committee; they focus on “What do we want Shenendehowa to look like?” the goal is

moving students from “proficiency of many to success for all”. The development of these goals is underway. Other announcements: The District Dashboard is now operational-it gives us a snapshot of “what” is going on in the district for ex. number of absences, etc. The next board meeting will be February 9th. Seventeen interactive white boards have been purchased by the district-two are coming to Chango for Mr. Kuhn and Mrs. Barbagelatta’s classes. The money for these boards came from Assemblyman Reilly; the teachers had to write proposals for these and then were selected to received them based on their proposals. These boards display what is on a computer screen for the class to see but can then be “written on”-this information can then be captured by the computer and printed out, etc. Chango is working on a new mission statement-this idea came from Okte. Almost March Madness is February 28th. Shensational will present a global perspective on diversity; more information to follow. The committee on field trips is meeting to figure out how we can host these more equitably and develop new policies for field trips.

Principal’s Report: (Mrs. Skarka) We had a great turn-out for the parent/student breakfast in the cafeteria; both moms and dads attended the event before school. The kids are really excited about the AMM tournament; the team is doing well and there will be a play-off game if Chango wins. Eric Smith and Billy Philo were advised of their nominations for the Honorary Lifetime Awards today. Mr. Smith is a special education aide and Mr. Philo is a daytime custodian. The awards will be presented at the Founder’s Day Dinner in March. Response to Intervention (RTI) has been helping the children, their scores are improving and we have received lots of positive feedback from the staff. Twenty-first century skills are becoming a focus for the school district. You can learn more about these skills/goals by visiting 21stcenturyskills.com. Dr. Robinson visited Chango today; we are currently the smallest school in the district. NY State assessments begin in April.

Treasury: (Karen) Danielle Canterbury made a motion that the PTA allocate the money this year for the advance purchase of the agendas for grades 3-5 in order to receive a \$110-\$150 discount. Christina Cook seconded the motion. (The agendas cost \$910 last year-the estimate for this year is \$750-\$800 at a cost of @25 cents per agenda.) The motion passed (14 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstention)

We have received the \$1783 from the sale of the school photos. The outstanding invoices for the Arts in Education have come in for September, October, November and December and the costs were right where we expected them to be. We did not vote on the AMM giveaways.

Spring Fundraiser vote: (Karen) The membership needs to vote on what type of fundraiser the PTA will hold in the spring. No matter what we choose ideally we would like to raise \$1500 from this event; the fall fundraiser fell short of our budgeted goal.

Ideas to consider put forth by the board:

- Gertrude Hawke chocolate catalog in April
- Plants from Genevieve’s in March
- Silver Graphics in May

The members present stated that they were not interested in doing any additional “catalog” fundraisers; that these are distributed by every organization-baseball, softball, etc. and that they would like to see something different for the spring. Sharon Roy suggested that we have a rummage sale to tie in with the Round Lake annual garage sale weekend. There were concerns regarding how much money we could actually make with this, pricing, volunteers, etc. Beth Schreiber asked if there was a way to tie in any fundraising with Bingo on March 12th? It was also suggested that we could possibly sell plants at the rummage sale. At the end of the discussion, Idalia asked Donna Kinkaid to look into the plants and Dawn Montague to research the idea about the rummage sale and get back to her by the end of the week. Karen reminded us that we also have the AMM and Odyssey of the Mind as additional fundraisers for this school year. We will vote on these suggestions at the next meeting.

Partnership Team Report: (Tina for Marlene Sweet)

Chango Kindergarten screening-Tentative date, Tuesday May 25

Kindergarten Registration-

1. Saturday, March 7 from 8:30 – 4:00
2. Monday, March 9 from 5:00 – 8:00
3. Wednesday, March 17 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm
4. Saturday, March 14 ** SNOW DATE ONLY**

Registration is held at the district office and it is suggested that you do not bring your children.

Chango Mission Statement –the group is in the process of developing Chango’s mission statement. The team is gathering ideas. The team will also be polling students as well.

Education Programs –Response to Intervention (RTI) and Professional Learning Centers (PLC) programs are in process; positive feedback received from team teachers. 3rd grade PLC recently met.

School Board update –Mrs. Skarka wants all team members to review School Board meeting minutes-these meetings can be viewed online. School budget is top priority due to the state fiscal situation.

Next partnership meeting –March 12.

President’s Report: (Idalia) The Shenendehowa Community Coalition will be hosting a series to promote Teen Health and Safety. The Shenendehowa Council PTA Preschool Committee will be hosting a Kindergarten Readiness Panel with members of the Shen CSD. On March 9-10 there will be a Mrs. McPuppet children’s programs-at 9:30 am and 1:00 pm both days-at the United Methodist Church on Route 146. Please visit the Shen Inventors Display during the Clifton Park Winter Carnival at the Clifton Park Center Mall on February 13 from 8 to 4 pm.

February 11-H1N1 Flu Clinic at Shen at the district office from 4 to 7 pm; no fee or appointment necessary.

February 22-Spring physicals for all students (Freshmen, JV, Varsity) who would like to participate in a Shen Spring Sport-these will be held at the HS East new gym from 4:30 to 6:00 pm-this is the only date for spring physicals.

March 18-20-The Shen High School Musical Company’s production of “Anything Goes” will be performed at the HS East auditorium at 7:30 pm.

March 27-The first ever “Shensational! Global Expo 210” will be held by the Shenedehowa Central School District hosted by the school’s Cultural Diversity Committee; Idalia is a member of this committee.

Announcements/Event Reports:

- A. Boy’s Bowling: (Donna Kinkaid/Marlene Sweet) Great turnout; 147 Boys/Moms; there were some new families that bowled this year; \$88 profit. There was some excitement when the building had to be evacuated because of a fire alarm-the bowling center is compensating the families effected with 1 free game plus shoes for each person who missed their bowling time due to this event; 11 families in total. Thank you to Mrs. Legnard (the school nurse) as she attended both days of this event!
- B. Movie Night: (Kristen Renauld) The movie, G-Force, will be shown on February 26th at 7 pm in the Chango Café; doors open at 6:30 pm.
- C. Almost March Madness: (Idalia) It is not too late to order t-shirts if you can let us know by Wednesday; \$6 each. Chango also needs to have two children to help sing the National Anthem at the game; nominees need to be submitted by tonight. Kevin Cook and Benjamin Sepulveda were both nominated.
- D. Math Mystery-No report; details will be forthcoming soon.
- E. Ladies Dance: (Gigi) The event will be held on Friday, April 30th; this year’s theme is a Disco “Ball”.
- F. Odyssey of the Mind: (Karen) We need volunteers to man the concession stand from 3 to 4:30 pm; even older children are welcome to help out.
- G. Talent Show (Christina Cook/Laura Marion)-This event will be held on April 23rd; some questions arose regarding whether or not this is a “talent” show or a “variety” show? Does the show have to be limited to 2 hours? Can the program be started earlier or end later to accommodate all the entries? Idalia will look into the availability of the Gowana Auditorium the day of the event and get back to Laura and Christina as soon as possible.
- Bingo (Beth Schreiber) This event will be held on March 12th in the Cafeteria from 7 to 8:30 pm. She is trying to get Mr. Donnelly to MC-if not, Mr. Jackson is the back-up (he did it last year).

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

The next meeting will be **March 15 at 7:00 pm in the Café.**