

Spring Glen PTA®

PTA Meeting Minutes Wednesday September 11, 2013

Approved on October 10, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: Avi Kamrat called the meeting to order at 6:36pm in the Spring Glen School library. PTA Officers present included Avi Kamrat, President; Charlton Daye, Treasurer; Chaundra Vasseur, Co-Secretary and Lancia Blatchley, Recording Secretary. Separate sign-in sheet includes 30 participants with Principal Nana and Chris Daur, Board of Education Representative.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. PTA Overview:** Avi Kamrat explained the purpose and various roles of the PTA to new meeting attendees. He shared the focus on advocacy, enrichment, field trips, conference camp, creation and maintenance of the playground, grant writing for field trips and technology (Lexia iPads for reading assistance).
- 2. Calendar:** Avi Kamrat clarified that May 2 is a Friday. Nagu Kent reported that the Scholastic book sale will be happening October 21-24.
- 3. Volunteer:** Mark Levenson shared the multiple ways to help. He explained that there are experienced coordinators and documentation to assist as well as openness to new ideas. Directory membership, fall festival, circus night, babysitting night, book fair, baking goodies are all ways to help. He stated there is a need for new fundraising, membership and enrichment chairs, help with the website and placing ads in the directory. Evelyn Neuber to be enrichment chair.
- 4. Principal Welcome:** Mrs. Nana expressed her feeling that school is off to a great start. There are 440 students enrolled as of now including three 5th grades with one in the computer lab, so media center is now used for computers as well as books. She reported a technology grant provided the computers, a reading nook for Mrs. Church is in the back and a whiteboard will be mounted for teachers to access information. A new hire, Tricia Donovan, will replace Mr. Page as School Climate Advisor. Children are allowed to choose an area to play on the playground. More information on the current curriculum, with a focus on emotional literacy, will be provided at the Open House. "If you see mean, intervene!" The Common Core, used in 46 states, information is available at the Board of Education website. Spring Glen School may use Smarter Balance computerized testing in March 2014.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Fall Festival Request:** The 6th grade Fall Festival Committee is asking for an \$800 advance. Chaundra Vasseur motioned the allocation of funds and Charlton Daye seconded the motion.

The vote was taken and approval was unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports were made during this meeting.

MISC.

1. New Family Questions and Answers:

a. "What is the process for acquiring the new principal?"

Mrs. Nana reported in April the position will be posted and appointment made in May. PTA will be involved in looking at in-house or out of house applicant. She reported wanting a very transparent position this year.

b. "How is the school encouraging physical activity even in poor weather?"

Mrs. Nana reported state regulations that recess cannot be taken away from a student. Any disciplined students will have a separate recess from regular class such as walking elsewhere. All parents dress children differently, so it's difficult to dictate, but if they are dressed appropriately and it is safe, they will be taken out. Perhaps walking in the building during indoor recess is an option as gym is usually occupied or training lunch aides for activity in the classroom. Mrs. Nana will bring it up with Mrs. Perotti.

Avi Kamrat reported that there is an in-class program called Activity Burst in the Classroom. Every classroom has an education-based fun activity kit. Three teachers and Ms. Bertolone went to a training at Eastern CT State University and brought information back for all teachers. It has been implemented to varying degrees. There was a winter coat and gear drive last year but items were not used because Mrs. Perotti set the limit at 32 degrees. Board member, Chris Daur, agreed to bring the concern back to the Board of Ed. Avi explained guidelines and healthy food certification which means no unhealthy food can be sold to children, only adults. Wellness committee to pass on new recommendations to Board of Ed.

c. "What is the deal with Fun Fridays where kids watch videos?"

Mrs. Nana to monitor what happens.

d. "Can a volunteer list be emailed out?"

Marc Levenson shared he can give his email and a table with sheets will be at the Open House.

ADJOURNMENT: Avi Kamrat motioned that the business portion of the meeting be adjourned at 7:34pm. Charlton Daye seconded and motioned was unanimously approved.

Eve Sansone offered to fill the vacancy of Chair for Membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Lancia Blatchley
Spring Glen School Recording Secretary