

Spring Glen **PTA**[®]

Spring Glen PTA Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 3:45 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Chris Wuerth called the meeting to order at 3:50pm in the Spring Glen School library. PTA Officers present: Avi Kamrat, Co-President; Chris Wuerth, Co-President; Amanda Levitt, Co-Vice President; Charlton Daye, Treasurer; Chaundra Vasseur, Co-Secretary; Sign-in sheet of 14 participants. Also present were Principal Nana; Chris Daur, Board of Education Representative; Shauna Cassell, graduate student; Alison Thurber, Girls on the Run representative.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of January minutes

- need to add # of participants (From sign in sheet)
- explanation of principal search process underway
- discussion
- Tricia Mangold - Heiser motioned to approve, Avi Kamrat seconded
- motion approved

NEW BUSINESS

1. First Grade teachers thanked the PTA for funds for their olympic scarves
 - funds requested directly from Charlton
2. Welcome Shauna Cassell, graduate student at Sacred Heart, observing the meeting for her education class
 - resident of North Haven but grew up in Spring Glen
 - as part of her course she must attend board meeting and PTA meeting, chose our school
3. Girls on The Run: presentation by Alison Thurber
 - invited to present by Michelle Valerio
 - 200+ cities offering girls on the run as an after school program (has been established since 1996)
 - volunteer based - volunteer coaches, often parents
 - physical fitness partnered with emotional wellness
 - no girls on the run in New Haven county so far - some pockets of the country have many schools participating
 - awaiting approval (Friday) then start offering the program in the fall of 2014
 - one school in New Haven already, hoping to find a Hamden school (Spring Glen one option)
 - is a physical fitness program (12 week curriculum, ongoing evolution of the program) 2 times / week for an hour to hour and a half - one session in the fall,

one session in the spring

- "team" is 8-15 girls, if more girls interested, have multiple teams
- most activity is outside - weather dependent
- not intended to be sport focussed
- session looks like: warm up, discussion point (topics range from bullying, nutrition, school stressors), physical activity (not always running), then wrap up - physical fitness, social wellness, emotional wellness, girls relationships to themselves, each other and community - community service project
- fee set by National organization \$150/season (12 week session) - grant writing and fundraising to be done - there is a Facebook page to sponsor the local chapter, currently an indiegogo campaign
- get kids, parents, community, neighbourhood involved in the organization
- celebratory 5km event at the end of the season
- running buddies (adults) in the community - messages, tokens, etc. sent between them throughout the season
- \$150 pays for programming materials, insurance, legal fees, etc. ultimately there will be a staff for the local council
- they did try a boys version a few years ago but it didn't take off - they are looking at other options

4. New principal announcement

- Howard Hornreich from Church Street School appointed by Fran Rabinowitz
- everyone surprised by the appointment vs. the process we understood would take place
- There was some push from Chris Daur to not burden a new superintendent with the job of choosing a new principal
- some change was anticipate to take place at Church Street school as well, which Chris Daur is not at liberty to discuss, however this fell through unexpectedly
- of note historically a previous superintendent would change administrators every 5 years as a matter of regular rotation
- process has begun to replace principal at Church Street
- Mrs. Nana reported that she feels he will do a very good job moving Spring Glen School forward
- Barbara Nana assures us she is here until the end of June
- there will be informal coffee hours throughout the spring to connect with new principal

5. Regarding Superintendent Search

- when Chris Melillo met with parents at the last PTA meeting and spoke about the process he likely did not know about superintendent leaving or that a principal had been appointed
- focus groups have taken place and about 300 people responded to the online survey for Superintendent search - applicants have been narrowed down to 5 applicants. Candidates to be made public sometime mid - March. Hoping to have a candidate selected by the end of March.
- no parents or teachers on the selection committee

- if you want to have some input at this point you can speak with your board of education representative

6. Mini grants: are they being utilized?

- Barbara Nana and Dorian Bauknecht to share with teachers where mini grant applications can be found and encourage them to apply for grants as needed
- Dorian Bauknecht to be point of contact for the Mini-Grant committee
- any request for funds for things not already in the budget needs to go through the eboard or the mini-grant committee

7. Nominating committee update: appeal for PTA officers for next year

- some people are interested per Eve Sansone

8. Discussion of 6th grade fundraising

- no discussion

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Treasurer
- Enrichment
 - Evelyn Neuber reported Hartford Symphony Orchestra string quartet coming on March 5th for two performances 9:15 and 10:15 - parents are welcome
 - afterschool programs a big success (see report from Halina) - 2 session, no third session this year
 - 47 students enrolled (no tuition assistance requested)
 - chess is most popular, then Yoga
 - \$1166 (\$689 from winter)
 - if anyone interested in teaching a class coming up (next session in the fall)
 - box tops collection has done well \$550
- Fundraising
 - no report
 - Dorian Bauknecht suggested we look into collecting CapriSun style juice containers to be recycled for cash
- Membership
 - no report
- Nominations
 - collecting names for positions
 - speak to Chris Wuerth, Eve Sansone, if interested in

10. New business

- Grade 5 will be taking Science CMT - paper booklet test (bubbles) March 5th (letter has gone home to parents)
- SBAC for grade 3-6 to be end of April to mid-May - all laptops have been delivered to school, almost all are configured to be compatible with the test
- parent survey online about SBAC - Barbara Nana to put together something for This Week to communicate with parents about the survey

- Disney Movie for Earth Day about Bears - schoolwide trip to see the movie April 24th 10-11:30 K-3, 4-6 in the afternoon - arts teachers to connect activities to the movie and Earth Day on that day
- Conference Camp will not run

11. District Budget - report from Chris Daur

- superintendent was asking for 3.9%, trying to decrease and stay within a 3% recommendation
- looking at increase of 3% not including alliance grants
- lots of stress on Legislative Council's budget because of pension obligations
- budget currently has close to \$700 000 budget payouts
- teachers are at the end of a 3 year contract - 3rd year calls for 4% raises
- Operations committee (6:00 PM) Finance committee (7:00 PM) meetings on Tuesday, March 4th; Board of Education meeting Tuesday, March 11th (7:00 PM)
- possibly recommendation from board on Tuesday, March 11th depending on how meetings go this coming Tuesday
- extensive discussion about Alliance Grants

Motion to adjourn from Amanda Levitt

Seconded by Trisha Mangold-Heiser