

Cloverly Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes – 12/5/2017

Location: Cloverly Elementary School Media Center

Attendees: Jen Balourdos, Eduardo Barcelo, Jane Bornhorst, Melissa Brunson, Michele Fuentes, Corrinne Hobbs, Vicki Hubert, Ellery Krause, Sonia Livingston, Jacqueline Lloyd, Krystal Mauriello, Marie Merritt, Theresa Phillips, Margo Porter, Ned Porter, Rachel Sifri, Sheila Stewart, Ellen Wellen

Meeting began with Cloverly trivia at 7:04 pm

Meeting officially began at 7:13 pm

President's Report – Theresa Phillips for Brad Behr

- Turkey Trot was amazing – thanks to Joyce, volunteers, participants and staff
- Book Fair – very well run, thanks to Marie and Karen, volunteers and staff
- Staff Appreciation – Thanks to Alana and Nicole for the potluck luncheon, and to David Williams for getting Chipotle for the staff
- Cultural Arts – Mathemagic performance held Nov 28th was a big hit. Thanks to committee and Eduardo.
 - Dr. Brunson added that this performance was very enjoyable and will be coming back for Infinity Night Feb 1st.
 - Next assembly – Siva Spanish dancers, back to back assemblies on Jan 2nd.
 - Future assemblies – Reptiles, Storyteller (Back up is Mad Science)
- Eduardo – thanks to the administration for taking care of logistics for assembly.
 - Included SGA kids on committee and it worked very well
 - Will check if the Spanish dancers can accommodate a mix of primary and intermediate ages for mixed back to back assemblies
- Game Night will be Dec 14th
- Art Night – tentatively set for Jan 19th
 - Laurie and Sam Mertens are organizing
 - Originally started as paint night, then clay sculpting was potentially added, now there will be a muralist and families will do family murals with more than just paint
 - Food and drinks will be available
- Restaurant Fundraisers –
 - Dream Dinners will be on or around the same night as the Art Night (tentatively Jan 19th). \$34/person for 3 3-serving meals. \$10 for each will go back to PTA.
 - Squisitos night – Thanks to all who came out- \$1,012 in sales, only reached 25% donation to PTA tier (so \$253).
 - California Tortilla Fundraiser in the spring
 - Chipotle Fundraiser likely in June (cannot return a second time in 12-month period)
- Better PTA Communication
 - Current communication through flyers, emails, website – what’s working and what can be improved?
 - Question – Can communications be sent out in different languages?
 - Action to check with Ms. Spezio
 - Flyers and signs for book fair did include Spanish and it seems to have helped
 - Lots of free translation sites could be explored for the purposes of better inclusion
 - Top languages at Cloverly (besides English): Spanish, Vietnamese
 - School does some specific outreach, but could use more language inclusion in school messages.
 - PTA membership form only in English – may prevent some families from joining
 - Weekly email school sends is beneficial – the PTA should do the same – same time/day each week. Sending separate emails throughout the week leads to too many emails and causes people to miss some.

- No PTA meeting in January, next meeting will be February 6
- Holiday shopping – use Amazon PTA link
 - Action to check whether gift cards count
 - You have to start filling your cart from the PTA link for it to count.
- Now is a good time to let staff and teachers know they are appreciated – via gift cards, letters, involvement in staff appreciation events, homemade item from child, classroom volunteering.
 - Binder in office with teacher’s favorites
 - Question whether the pages can be scanned and sent to parents?
 - Information could be personal and preference is not to send out or post
 - Suggestion to email teacher directly to ask preferences if unable to check binder or call the office
 - Suggestion to make sure parents are aware the binder exists – put in PTA email (was recently mentioned in Paw Prints)
 - County requires gifts to one person cannot exceed \$20
 - Question raised as to how often? Response is they read it as at one time

Principal’s Report – Dr. Brunson

- Fun Run – great activity, was well attended, Joyce devoted lots of time and energy to this
- Squisitos Night – very nice fundraiser
- ESOL parents night – non-English speaking families – trying to help them navigate and be involved more at the school
 - PTA funded pizza dinner for ESOL event – very appreciated
- Reading Night – Tomorrow
 - Over 80 families have signed up
 - ~20 rocks have been submitted
- Winter Concert – 12/15 day event, night event at BCMS
- Second Grade Inview Testing (3 days)
 - Doing makeups and higher grade testing now
- Rigor for Learning framework for teachers
 - Training on productive struggle
 - This past Monday, had another training specifically on cultural arts learning
 - Working to make further connections with diverse learners
- Principal’s Post – explains what the school is doing process-wise and the on-going school improvements

Book Fair

- Over \$1,700 in books back to media center, new teachers and teachers who didn’t get donations.
- Best revenue fundraiser Marie has seen
- \$2,500 of profit back to PTA
- Generated over \$1,100 in Scholastic dollars
- Some books that were ordered are not in yet – Marie is working on getting them
- Tentative dates for Spring Book Fair – week of April 9th (in conjunction with Heritage Night April 11th)
- Volunteers were great, but still need more – if interested, talk to Marie

Family Game Night

- 12/14 6:30 – 8:30, held in AP room
- Sign up genius on website
- Pizza and drinks for sale
- Everyone brings a game (or can just show up to play)

Math Support

- Afterschool program for grades that need math support the most as trial program – 3rd through 5th grades
 - Program for kids who need help, practice, want a challenge once a week for one hour.
 - Teachers to help, parent and teacher volunteers needed, high school tutor volunteers needed
 - Can leverage Chrome books for free math programs
 - Plan is to start right after the break and run for 6 weeks, fee around \$40
 - Suggestion to open to more grade levels – discussion regarding lower grades needing math support/enrichment as much as higher grades
 - Depends on how many teacher volunteers can support
 - Currently starting as a trial program, if successful will try to start program for lower grades
 - Dr. Brunson sent email to teachers to see how many could volunteer to support program
 - Possibly look into possibility of paying teachers to support
 - Possibly have 5th graders helping younger grades
 - Unsure the amount of 5th graders that are skilled enough/have enough time, and problem with students managing students
 - K-2 grade parents willing to work with Sonia to include younger grades or start younger program
 - Right now, the program cannot support 25 kids grades K-5 due to the totally different skillsets so plan is to start the pilot program for 3rd through 5th, then do another class after pilot for younger grades to keep curriculums separate
 - Suggestion to include curriculum in message to parents with information about the program
 - Program will use computers and teachers will select site to use, evaluations and the students will do the work on the computers during the hour period with teacher guidance.
 - Suggestion to look into University of Maryland or other university program
 - Motion for 3rd – 5th grade afterschool program to start in January
 - Motion passed

Treasurer – Krystal Mauriello

- PTA tax forms submitted
- Push for more members – there will be a membership table set up tomorrow at Reading Night
- Use Amazon link for shopping – <http://tinyurl.com/ptashopping>
- Cub Stone – sign ups have dropped off, use sign up on website to reserve
- Question – can people donate to PTA and be tax deductible – yes
 - Suggestion to announce to everyone for year-end deductions

Recording Secretary – Vicki Hubert

- Review of November 2017 meeting minutes
 - Dr. Brunson clarified that Cloverly is exploring and looking into Jacob's Ladder and William and Mary enrichment for Gifted and Talented
- Motion to approve November 2017 meeting minutes
 - Motion approved

Motion to Adjourn

PTA Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 pm

**Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Hubert
Recording Secretary**