

**Nimitz School PTA  
Meeting Minutes 12/17/2007**

**Attendees:** Tracy Burriss, Debbie Czyzewski, Dale Jones, Galit Lev-Ran, James Liu, Jon Rawinsky, Fiona Sadowski, Amira Sagie, Susannah Vaughan

**Meeting called to order at 7:38pm.**

**1. Approval of November 19, 2007 Minutes**

Tracy moved to approve the minutes and Debbie seconded. The motion approved unanimously .

**2. Principal's Report**

**The Pat Belvel Parenting class** will start the last week in January and continue for 5 sessions and 10 total hours into February. Dale wanted the PTA to help spread the word about the seminar. The last time we had Pat Belvel, we had other non-Nimitz parents in the District interested in attending, but we had already booked the maximum number of parents, which was around 40. However, when the time came, many parents didn't attend leaving empty seats. The group discussed possibly over-booking the event this time to ensure the seats are filled.

Dale also asked if PTA might be able to sponsor child care for the parents who need it and couldn't otherwise attend the seminar. But before the PTA tries to find funds for, say a baby sitter, he may be able to use Title 1 funds. Dale will report on this at the next meeting.

**School Site Council** President Dave Korn is gathering ideas for new goals that the SSC school would like to do. If anyone has issues or input, please come and share them with the SSC. Meetings are typically the second Thursday of the month or email comments to Dave Korn or Dale Jones.

**Student Council was able to raise over \$400** in donations to the Red Cross for the fires in Southern California. Dale asked if any one knew if there was a bank locally that had a coin counting machine and would accept a deposit of coins. The school was talking with Downey Savings, but they don't have one, so he went to Safeway and used their Coinstar machine. For cash exchange, the Coinstar machine takes something like a 5-10% commission unless we take a Safeway gift card, then we get full value. Perhaps a parent would be willing to buy the gift card at face value. James said he would look into what the costs would be for a low-cost coin counting machine to provide to the student council.

**CDC Preschool Update.** CDC is going to staff preschool at Nimitz. The program will be accredited. It will be a sliding fee scale with free/no cost for Title 1 families. The target is school-readiness, following directions, and listening skills. This is

trying to address a need that CDC thinks exists for the population of Nimitz. The preschoolers will have playground time, but at a different time than the Kindergarten. Dale mentioned that De Vargas School has a CDC preschool program currently, and they have had no issues. The ratio is 1:8 Teachers:students. The program will accept only Pre-K (age 3 - 4) age kids.

### **3. President's Report**

**PTA Secretary Position.** Fiona reported that Renu has volunteered to take on the role of PTA Secretary. She will be available to sign forms effective immediately. She can be found in rm 907 after school on most weekdays.

**Nominating Committee.** Fiona brought up next year's PTA board positions. She suggested we should start the search now and prepare for nominations and elections sometime in April. One of the critical positions we need to fill will be the Auditor. Anne Newmann is currently our auditor and performs this task twice per year. Anne will be back 2nd half of the year, but this will be her 2nd year in that position and we will need to replace her after this term.

**Update on items funded by PTA.** Dale reported that the school has ordered some items and they have arrived. Others have been ordered. The books for the library have also come in. James gave us a brief on the carts. He's under budget and waiting only on the Mac Minis which are currently in short supply. James was able to find a security solution to cable and anchor down the equipment to the carts as well.

### **4. Direct Donation Report.**

Susannah reported that we now have 102 families who have donated. The total amount of cash received is \$13936.57, with \$1200 in matching gifts pending and \$310 pledged but unpaid. Total comes to \$15446. Our target is \$25k. Tracy Burriss noted it looks like we will want to do a walkathon.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Jon said our checking account balance is \$15426.26 and he's relatively caught up on most big payments. With little money outstanding, except the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Camp fund. Fiona noted this is in the ball park of \$1700 this year.

Jon brought up some cash flow issues as we spend down our budget. There is still money coming in, but sometimes in the process of writing checks for reimbursement,, there may be a possibility of being overdrawn.

### **6. Spirit Wear**

At last month's meeting Dave Korn gave us an update on Spirit Wear. In a recent

email, he said if we do not confirm our desire to go with our current vendor, they would drop our slot in the Spring and free up their shirt presses to take orders from other schools. Dave wanted to have an answer on whether we still wanted to do business with them by the end of this month. Tracy reported that she did look into another vendor and she asked if they would package t-shirts per class like the other company. This would save a lot of work for us. But the alternate company never replied. The consensus of the group was to stick with the current vendor.

The group revisited the idea of \$3 markup on each shirt and whether we should continue to charge the markup if the T-shirt sale was not for fund raising. Jon had some numbers from last year's budget and disclosed that we raised about \$400 on the last sale last year, which was not insignificant. Based on that history, the group consensus was to continue to charge the markup.

In regards to the proposed T-shirt design contest, Susannah and Debbie took the action item to contact Tracey Terrett since she brought up the T-shirt competition idea.

## 7. Other Business

**Budget savings.** James reported that we had \$500 for the supplies and racks and \$800 allocated to monitors for the library computer project. He's going to be under budget on the racks leaving more money for emergency supplies. The monitors were unnecessary due to parents who've donated large, functioning CRT monitors. This may save about \$900 total.

**Walkie Talkies.** Dale suggested that if we had money, he and the staff would like to purchase some high quality walkie talkies. Dale explained that they've had 2 walkie-talkie sets fail already. Lawson Middle School's principle had some nice walkie talkies. These were \$200 each plus the cost of the charger . A set of 5 plus charger unit will cost around \$1100. Currently, it's been difficult to communicate. We had a big tree branch break off previously and fall on one of the kids. He just had a couple of scratches but was pinned by the big brank. They could have really used a good set of walkie talkies.

Susannah motioned to approve \$1200 on walkie talkies. Tracy Burriss seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Running Club Ribbons.** Tracy Burriss reported that she needed to order more ribbons for Running Club and would like to request more budget for ribbons. Blue ribbons are for 5 miles and after 30 miles, kids start getting 10 miles for a red ribbon. There was \$400 budgeted initially. We've spent about \$275.33 so far and have another \$225 pending. If the number of laps kids are running keeps this pace, we will be close to \$800 for the whole year.

**See's Candy Sale.** Susannah reported that the 4th grade will hold the See's Candy

Sale this year to offset their 5th grade science camp next year. Like last year, they plan to hold this sale for Valentines's Day. This will target Feb 14th. Susannah is looking for help to distribute the candy when they come in. She'd like to have about 4 or 5 volunteers. Debbie volunteered.

**Reflections Update.** We has 60 submissions and sent 18 of those entries to Cupertino/Fremont District PTA council. One of those entries by first grader, Vishnu Tejus, was sent on to 6th district.

**Kinder Playgroup 2008.** Susannah brought up the Kindergarten play group. Sign-ups for new Kindergarteners will happen early in 2008 and it would be good to have information about a confirmed playgroup that they could participate at that time. James noted that Renu Pontil ran that program last year and he handled the web content and registration. Galit volunteered to help make a flyer that would explain to new parents what we do (provided if someone else helped too).

**Library Ceiling Artwork.** Tracy Burriss recalled that at the beginning of the year, that she had suggested the idea of painting the library ceiling with art work. The idea was to hire Angela Hansen. Van Welch also expressed interest in helping. The group discussed getting an estimate on the cost for labor and supplies to paint the ceiling.

**New Plantings for the School.** Galit mentioned that last year, the Nimitz Jewish community celebrated Sukkot. They were think of another Jewish Holiday in February that would involve new plantings. One idea was to replace the unsightly roses in the courtyard between GLC and main office. Dale suggested we also consider planting something in the Kindergarten area , which needs more dirt. Tracy added that there is a possibility of helping the Boy Scouts to build some benches that we could put in the garden areas. Dale noted that the Student Council is selling bracelets now to fund some new plantings.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.**