

Nimitz Elementary School
PTA Meeting Minutes
10/23/08

Attendees: Marcus Louie, Tracy Burriss, Shauna Ruden, Tracey Terrett, Pam Berry, Debbie Czyzweski, Tami Green, Grainne O'Flynn, Jocelyn Su, Anand Arunachalam, Peggy Chu, James Lui, Fiona MacKellar, and Dale Jones.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

The minutes of the 5/08 and 9/08 meetings were reviewed. Debbie made a motion to approve the 5/08 minutes and Pam seconded it. The minutes of the May 2008 were approved unanimously. Debbie made a motion to approve the 9/08 minutes and Tracy B. seconded it. The minutes of the September 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Principal's Report

Dale discussed the plans for the annual Halloween parade and extra activities organized by Susannah Vaughan. The parade will take place on the track because of the growth in the school population. Dale encouraged parents to dress their students in costume so they can fully enjoy the day and not feel left out especially during the parade. He also invited the parents to participate by wearing costumes as well.

Dale reminded everyone of the upcoming Nimitz Thanksgiving feast. He encouraged all in attendance to volunteer to provide a dish and help at the event. The feast is another wonderful opportunity to reach out to the entire school family.

Project Cornerstone made a presentation to Dale and David Korn, the president of the School Site Council, regarding their program to encourage a positive school environment. Project Cornerstone was approached as a response to the parent survey, which showed that bullying was an area of concern for Nimitz families. Their program is ongoing, features the use of parent volunteers, uses the 4th and 5th graders as peer leaders, and is tailored to the needs of the school site. It is also a free program. Dale and David were impressed with their curriculum and presented it to the SSC and the Leadership/FAC teacher committee. Both groups unanimously approved to move forward with the proposed program. Dale encouraged PTA members to visit the Project Cornerstone website at www.projectcornerstone.org for more information.

President's Report

Fiona welcomed the Diversity Committee as an official part of the PTA organization.

Gail Richards, a Kindergarten parent, has volunteered to do a See's candy gift card fundraiser for Christmas. The questions was raised about doing additional gift cards fundraising like Peggy Ngai did last year. It was an easy way to raise some funds for the PTA. No one was sure, but Peggy will be consulted and an effort will be made to find someone to head this effort.

Direct Donation Report

Fiona reported that approximately \$14,000 has been raised so far this year.

The PTA council would like to encourage Nimitz to attend their annual gala. The event is to give PTA Honorary Service Awards. A short discussion ensued about the value of the cost of attending the event and the benefits of the awards. No decision was made.

Fiona asked about a \$500 grant from the district for Health and Safety. Some of these funds are earmarked for the running club. Funds were also directed to emergency kits for the new classrooms.

Reflections

Fiona reported that the Reflections contest has concluded. All entries are in the process of being judged.

Calendar items were discussed. James Lui will head the Walk-A-Thon event. The target date is March 2009. A spring dance was approved and the target date is May 2009. James will cater and Dale will try to secure the same band as last year. Two book fairs were proposed, one before the Winter Break and one in April. The book fairs will be through Linden Tree Books. Judith Barnes and Tracey Terrett will coordinate the book purchases. The "winter" book fair will take place Dec. 2-4, 2008. Sales on the 2nd and 3rd will be after school. The sales on the 4th will be in the evening and be accompanied by a Family Reading Night activity. Tracey Terrett and Shauna Ruden will organize the evening. The April fair will accompany an art show and an ice cream social. There was no interest in scheduling a Scholastic book fair. There was a proposal to add a Silent Auction to one of the calendared events. Discussion concluded with the decision to approach the Diversity Committee to include the auction as part of their Carnival. If that will not work, an auction will be added to the spring art show, ice cream social, and book fair. Postage cost for soliciting donations for the auction was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Marcus reported that Peggy Korn is auditing last year's financial report. Lenora and Marcus are filing all required tax reports. There was a question about matching donations received. Marcus explained that some of the funds in the budget report are payments of last year's matching donations. Anand asked that we list all companies that match in future correspondence. It was agreed that a more complete list of matching companies would be compiled. The membership drive budget was increased by \$100. PTA dues outstanding from last year are being paid. James made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Debbie seconded the motion. The proposed budget was approved with the agreement that payment of salary for additional art primary classes would be contingent on generating additional income to cover the expense. Tracey Terrett will research the possibility of starting an art docent program at Nimitz.

Membership

Debbie reported 101 paid members. There is a large turnout among teachers, although not 100%. She ordered Legoland vouchers as an incentive for new members. The coffee station set up at last Monday's flagpole assembly cost \$40. Many parents stopped by and it may be a way to increase membership. Concern was raised about whether this is a prudent use of funds when the budget is tight. Debbie mentioned that Peet's would donate some free coffee to organizations each month. She will try to request free coffee for November. Ongoing monthly coffee is still being discussed.

Spiritwear

Pam shared the new spiritwear designs. There are four new t-shirt designs as well as a black sweatshirt and sweatpants. It was decided to offer all the designs at \$3 more profit than before. The cost to purchasers will still be lower than the vendor used last year. Flyers will go out in November and hopefully samples will be on display at the coffee stand.

Percussion Ensemble

Tracy Burriss introduced Grainne O'Flynn to propose a percussion class to be offered on a contract basis through the PTA. Grainne wants to take the class outside of the Enrichment classes to give her more freedom to modify and enhance the program. Grainne presented her credentials and experience. Her proposal included:

- Starting a performance art class under the auspices of the PTA
- Returning 5% of proceeds to PTA budget
- Possible charges: 10 classes/\$100
- Students continue to perform with 4th and 5th grade performances as well as other school events
- Enhanced student affiliation with school
- Mondays after school for 4th and 5th graders

A concern was voiced about the exposure of the PTA when "hiring" an employee. This concern was addressed by the understanding that Grainne would be acting as a contractor not an employee of the PTA. The board was assured that this type of arrangement is used at other district locations without an issue. Pam made a motion to approve the proposal and Debbie seconded it. The motion was approved by the board.

Additional Business

Tracy proposed donating \$500 to Angela Hansen to start a community art project at the front of the school. The project would include painting the pillars between the office and the GLC library entrance. The money is needed to start the project now before cold weather makes it more difficult to paint outdoors. The art project would enhance the proposed garden project of the student council. Additionally, Tracy would like to approach the local Boy Scout troop to build benches around the planters to prevent students from walking through them. There was discussion about the budget's ability to fund this project. Finally, Debbie made a motion to donate \$250 to the project. Pam seconded the motion. The proposal to donate \$250 to Angela to start this project was approved by the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted by Shauna Ruden