

Nimitz Elementary School PTA
Meeting Minutes: January 27,2009

Attendees: Fiona Sadowski, Renu Pontil, Susannah Vaughan, Tracy Burriss, Debbie Czyzewski, Marcus Louie, Anand Arunachalam, Dale Jones

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM

Review and approval of November 2008 PTA meeting minutes: Motion to approve as written made by Debbie Czyzewski. Tracy Burriss seconded the motion.

Principal's Report

Project Cornerstone: Project Cornerstone is a non-profit project. Volunteers are trained to lead classroom activities and discussions about building appropriate social skills. The lessons focus on values like honesty, responsibility, peaceful conflict resolution, student-to-student respect and avoiding to become the victim of a bully. The goal of this program is to improve school climate. There will be a workshop in early March to select a group of 4th/5th graders to become "monitors." They will be trained to recognize a situation that is beyond what may be considered a "normal" situation. These "monitors" will be given strategies used to intervene and will also be trained to recognize when adult intervention is necessary. Fiona asked a very valid question, "will yard duty personnel be trained as well?" No, however Dale does train them to recognize certain situations and how to intervene.

Budget and its impact on Nimitz: As we know, the state is in a financial crisis. The district is without a budget this year, and the district does not know what, if any, funds it will receive from the state. The projections are dire. The district CEO projects a 2-2.5 million dollar cut for this year. All state funds have been frozen since November and no funds will be released back to the schools. SIP funds (used for staff development, curriculum), as well as ELD funds are frozen. The money will remain at the district. The funds for supplies have not been frozen. The money allocated for supplies is: \$20,898.73, and currently Nimitz has spent \$13,000. The Chu Foundation remaining funds is \$6,074 and Carol feels that if there is conservation, Nimitz may only need \$3,000 more to cover expenses. Considering we are only halfway through the school year, Dale is asking for about \$3,000 more to help get through the year. Tracy B. moved to allocate \$3,000 funds towards supplies for the remainder of the school year, Susannah seconded, and the motion passed.

President's Report: Fiona:

Calendar: Events planned for this year:

Walk-a-thon (a date is still needed from James Liu)

Diversity Committee's Carnival: no date is yet set, but it will

possibly be on a Friday in May.

Spring Dance: May 9th And the band is confirmed.

Silent Auction: Debbie asked if parents might be requested to donate items for the baskets? Consensus was “no” due to the Walk-a-Thon, Spring Dance, etc., might be best to keep it simple. We can invite future Kindergarten parents to the Auction and perhaps James can create a way to bid on-line.

Board/Non-Board Positions for 2009-2010: Positions that are open for next year are: President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Vidhya will continue to do CEEF and Susannah will do direct donation. In order to get the word out early about the open positions, it was suggested to put the news in the Dolphin, talk to parents, and have teachers fill out recommendation forms.

Book Fair: (Tracey Terrett is not here.) It was reported that \$400 was raised, and already spent. Books were bought for the library. Mrs. Barnes wants Nimitz to hold another Book Fair, but at this point it is not clear if PTA help is needed.

Treasurer's Report Marcus reported that our budget is in good shape. All the money for the spiritwear has been collected, and assembly dues have been paid. Susannah raised more funds from direct donation than the original estimate. The Silent Auction wasn't included in the original estimate of revenue, so these funds are an added plus. With the added revenue from the upcoming Walk-a-thon, the budget will be in very good shape. Money was raised from previous Sees Candies sales, which is always earmarked for 5th grade Science Camp, however this money has yet to be claimed. Susannah motioned that a check be written to the school to get the funds out of the PTA “bank” since it should be used to support 5th graders going to Science Camp. Debbie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Two hundred dollars of the library fund has yet to be spent from last year. This money came from sales of mural tiles. Debbie made a motion to cut a check to Judith to purchase books for the library, Tracy B. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Do we allocate more money for additional art hours? Dale met with Angela and she will begin classes on March 11. If she picks up an additional day, it will cost an additional \$3,155 to cover her added hours/day. We need to raise the money, which will hopefully come from the walk-a-thon, otherwise we will be short in funds. It was proposed that we look at possibly cutting spending on other line items. Some of those mentioned were skipping the Volunteer Tea and eliminating gifts for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Membership report-Debbie

We are currently at 107 PTA memberships. An article will be printed in the Dolphin to invite more people to join. The cut-off is March 1st to receive

payments. We are under our total membership from last year, but we charged more this year for membership. Perhaps we can offer a coffee membership drive to boost numbers?

Sees Candies -Susannah

Only 16 envelopes were returned and about \$1,700 worth of sales were made. Perhaps more will arrive on Thursday when the orders are due.

Direct Donations: Matching funds are still coming in.

Spiritwear-Pam

Pam Berry was not in attendance.

Any other business?

The Reflections competition was well received. Three Nimitz students got 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places at the District level.

Kinder Playgroup: Van might know someone who may be able to run it this summer.

Fiona suggested that we hold a general, public meeting. Perhaps we can hold it in the GLC and focus on what the PTA does with money it raises, how we are handling the budget crisis, etc. This may be a way to encourage more involvement in the PTA. Tracy B. suggested holding this meeting in March. Dale suggested we make it a potluck, perhaps dessert and coffee to encourage more people to come.

Open House this year? Yes. Perhaps a slide show featuring PTA's involvement can be shown in the GLC to encourage more members and volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 26,2009 at 6:30pm

Minutes submitted by Renu Pontil.