

Sequoyah Elementary School
PTA General Membership Meeting
Tuesday November 3, 2015 7:00pm

Attendance

Tina Webb	Jean-Yves Van Halle	Taline Diarbi	Doris Ryba
Sandy Walsh	Bobbi Jasper	Stephanie Strahan	Robin Smithgall
Jen Fosco	Nashay Johnson	Berlin Borges	John Moriarty
Andy Dumas	Maria Bing	Kelli Markham	Ms. Cohen

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Tina Webb, PTA President. Introductions were made by all attendees. Ms. Cohen, first grade team leader was present on behalf of the staff.

Approval of Minutes

The October 6th meeting minutes was presented for approval. Dr. Jasper asked for a minor change under the staff report. Doris Ryba motioned to approve the minutes with the proposed changes. Stephanie Strahan seconded the motion.

Administration Report

- Dr. Jasper reported that school has been exceptionally productive this year with tight and intense instruction.
- There has been a dramatic decrease in the amount of children going the nurse's office because of how hard they are working.
- There has also been no teacher discipline referrals up to this point.
- Dr. Jasper refers this back to the quality of engaging and challenging instruction mainly from the Common Core program (CC) and also complements the students on their accomplishments.
- Dr. Jasper has been working closely with central office in regards to the CC Program. Due to the uniqueness of the program and because the reading indicators and standards are taught in a different way, some report card grades will show and "m" for missing grade until all areas are taught. A memo will go out to everyone explaining this.
- Parent teacher conferences are coming up on November 11 and 12. There will be interpreters there.

Officer Reports

Tina Webb-President

- Tina thanked all who supported and volunteered at the book fair.
- Fall dance was very well attended and thanked everyone for helping and attending.
- The crock pot staff confrence day dinner is Nov 11, Tam Miller is organizing and will send out a sign up genius.
- Tina said that now Halloween is over, we will create a survey money to get feedback about the annual Halloween costume party and if we should replace it with another event and if so how will that be meaningful to our children.

- Many schools are celebrating Fall Harvest to learn more about the history of America in fun way that can be engaging.
- About 16% of students did not come to school because of halloween, about 17% were picked up right before the party/parade and about 34 students did the alternative activity.
- It was suggested to do a PTA sponsored Halloween event before the holiday and then do a Fall Harvest on the day of.
- Sequoyah's populations is 47% hispanic and this is a huge factor on why the large number of children are not participating.

Stephanie Strahan-President Elect

- Thanked everyone for their support and for volunteering at the book fair.
 - We got many new volunteers.
 - We should think about other new ways to reach to people to help out.

Kelli Markham-VP of Programs

- We did get a chair for international night which will be in January.
- We need a chair for the after school activities so we can start planning for that.
- Math night is Thursday November 19 sponsored the school and teachers run the event.

Jean Yves- Treasurer

- Nothing new to report since the last meeting.
- There was a shortfall of \$220 from last years book fair income.
- We are still thinking of more fundraising items such as a donation drive for after the new year.
- The budget spreadsheet columns need to be widened as some of the numbers did not come out.
- Budget is already approved from last meeting.

Committee Reports

Sandy Walsh-membership

- We currently have 110 PTA members and about 25 are staff.
- Numbers are a little lower than last year.
- Sandy will try again to advertise on facebook

Directory

- We have \$1040 in committed ads and \$800 are paid up
- We are printing out less this year due to lower enrollment so we will make a couple hundred in profit.
- They will be distributed to the youngest in family within the next couple of weeks.

Jen Fasco-Restaurant Night

- Last week was at Mama Lucia's we received 20%. Check was mailed we made \$244.
- Next restaurant night will be December 8 location TBD.
- Villamaya is another restaurant that we should consider as it is owned by a former parent.

Stephanie Strahan-book fair

- Sales were \$7,087.30 with \$1,772.00 in profit which is a little short from last year.
- Changing our start and end dates did hurt us a little and next year we should go back to our regular schedule.
- Have the book fair around more events for next year.

- All for books class winner is Ms. Cohen's class in first place and Mrs. Killebrews class in second place which raised \$335.00. Both classes get a pizza party.
- Dairy of a Wimpy kid books that were preordered are coming in next week.

Tina Webb on behalf of Francesca Cannetti-VP of Fundraising

- Shoebox recycling fundraiser is on. The company pays .50 per pound of shoes.
- Clothing drive is still being looked into. We could have a big metal bin delivered to our school but we need to get permission.
- Gift brick fundraiser from last year will continue again. Flyers will go out this week.
- Pricing needs to go on the brick fundraiser flyer.
- Spirit wear is moving very slowly. We might need a co chair for this to progress. We need a flyer and then place a master order through one of two companies with the right price and design.
- We are recycling toner cartridges as a fundraiser and as a way to help save the earth with Berlin's help. An idea came up to celebrate Earth day, possibly have a Sequoyah clean up day or do some gardening in the courtyard etc.
- Box tops fundraiser is continuing.
- GL scrips is on the budget however only two people ordered since last year. It's a difficult program to explain so many do not participate. A suggestion was made to buy the gift cards upfront and sell them at our events. Budget would have to be changed if we decided to purchase.

New business

- Andy said that the talent show needs to go on the calendar and asked if we could do it at Magruder. Need to confirm testing dates first.
- We need a yearbook chair and Andy will help.
- We need to find out if there will be a make up day for pictures. Dr. J will look into.
- Bingo night will be on Friday March 11, 2016.
- Cabin Fever was an event that was done years ago during a harsh winter. It was like a winter party with moonbounce, pizza and games. We should consider to do this again. Many adult volunteer are needed for this event.
- Sky zone is scheduled for February 11
- Dr. J with Jen Brooking and Paul Summers are prepared to speak about the Ready Common Core program sometime in December. Tina said that parents will want to see data. Dr. J said that more data will be available after testing in January but an initial discussion will be beneficial now and we can do the data piece after January.

Meeting adjournment

John Moriarty motioned to adjourn the meeting and Stephanie Strahan seconded.

Meeting ended at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
 Taline Diarbi -
 SES PTA Secretary 2015-2016