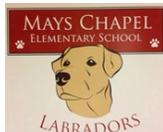


Mays Chapel Elementary School PTA



General Meeting Minutes January 13, 2015

In Attendance: Michael Quinn, Kelly Sevier, Stephen Coco, Katie Murray, Liz Kaiser, Monica Koors, Jacque Pfeifer, Tricia Guildener, Tami Payne, Christina Prescott, Darcy Bisset, Sarah Lange, Niki Jones, Ronda Kunkel, Karen Wolfe, Sue Caldwell, Jeanette Guy, Jon Tarrant, Barbara Diaz

1. Call to Order and (Re)Introductions

2. **Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the general meeting on November 11, 2014 were reviewed and approved.

3. President's Report: Michael Quinn, President

- a. Thank you to Tami Payne for a very successful Scholastic Book Fair and Family Fun Night. It was successful financially as well as for community building. Parents had a chance to connect at the Book Fair as shoppers and volunteers. Thank you also to everyone who was involved and supported the project. As with all events in this first year, we will learn from our experiences – what worked and what can be improved, but overall this was a success in every way.
- b. Thank you to Jacque Pfeifer and Shelley Moores for leading the spirit wear fundraiser. It was very well organized and executed. The sales were incredible.
- c. We are still seeking a parent who is interested in serving as Special Education Liaison. Potentially this could be a parent with a child who has an IEP, but really anyone who has an interest should please let us know. As suggested, we will advertise this request in the next newsletter.
- d. We have created an online “suggestion box” for the PTA. Please send your ideas for PTA activities and suggestions for improvements to suggestions@mayschapelpta.org.

4. Treasurer's Report: Kelly Sevier, Treasurer

- a. We are ahead of plan on fundraising. Our first budget was a best estimate, but income thus has exceeded plan and expenses are within the projected amounts.
- b. We have already been supporting several school-based projects and programs.
- c. We have been working hard to get everything into QuickBooks so that it can be well maintained and managed. By the next meeting we will have a detailed report for everyone to review.

5. Principal's and Assistant Principal's Reports: Steve Coco, Principal and Katie Murray, Assistant Principal

- a. **Spirit Wear:** Mr. Coco and Mrs. Murray, who both looked quite elegant in their red fleece Mays Chapel jackets, thanked everyone for the Spirit Wear fundraiser.
- b. **Community:** Thank you to everyone for helping to build community. That is one of the biggest goals for the year. Teachers have worked hard to build it within their classrooms and it is really spreading throughout the school.
- c. **Volunteers:** Thank you also to the parent volunteers who put on the winter classroom parties. The kids and teachers were very grateful.
- d. **Girls Night Out:** Girls Night Out is set for January 23, organized by Mrs. Counsell.
- e. **Concert:** The first vocal performance will be on January 20. Just 5th grade will be participating. Rehearsals have been wonderful. All students are welcome to attend the performance.
- f. **STAT Update:** We are one of ten lighthouse schools. We are entering stage 4 of the initiative as a county, which involves incorporating all of the other schools. Katie Cox works with all of the teachers. Monthly they visit other lighthouse schools. Next year we will be partnered with ten other schools, to support them as they join the initiative. Parents can visit the school website for status on the initiative and even share their ideas.
- g. **Starlabs:** This mobile planetarium – which is supported by the BCPS Office of Science and comes to each school once every three years – will be at our school beginning January 21 for ten days. Each class will have an opportunity to visit.
- h. **Team BCPS Day:** January 15 everyone can wear blue to support Team BCPS.
- i. **Sunshine Committee:** Thank you to the Sunshine Committee. Everyone appreciates the monthly birthday celebrations.
- j. **Fields:** Work on the fields has ceased for the winter. This will resume when it warms up.
- k. **Drop-off Traffic:** As the weather has gotten colder, there are more parents driving kids to school. We are looking at how to improve the flow, including utilizing Safeties.
- l. **Morning Announcements:** “Good Morning Mays” announcements are now being delivered from the recording studio live onto the classroom smart boards. Students are leading the process. Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Reilly (our art teacher) facilitate. Kids are camera operators, anchors, directors, teleprompter operators, and tech crew. Weather, lunches, birthdays, MC

cheer, and pledge are all included. The state of the art studio is adjacent to the library (and those attending the meeting were given a brief tour).

- m. **Target:** After some initial glitches on Target's end, our school account is now open for parents to register their Target cards. We earn money for the school with every purchase.
- n. **Cafeteria Position:** Because of the departure of one of our families, there is now an opening for a paid cafeteria assistant. We have a number of volunteers (and more are welcome), but this paid position is open and needs to be filled. Please contact Mrs. Murray if interested.
- o. **Testing:** PARC testing (all of it online) will be administered in the spring. Grades 3,4, and 5 will be taking reading and math. 5th graders will also take MSA for science. There is a wide window to administer the test; information on specific dates will be announced as it becomes available.
- p. **STAT:** The STAT initiative will be available at Ridgley for the 5th graders who are moving up.

6. Faculty Liaison's Report: Liz Kaiser, Faculty Liaison

- a. Girl's Night Out: An event organized by Mrs. Counsell for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade girls is scheduled for January 23rd (a day when classes will be dismissed three hours early). There will be pizza and a movie along with crafts. Some donations have come in. Signup is progressing and more is anticipated this week.

7. Committee Reports:

- a. **Health, Safety, and Wellness** Chair Arisa Kirk (unable to attend) reports that a health fair is being explored for the spring, possibly partnering with Hopkins Cares and offering one or several safety centers.
- b. **School Directory** Chair Susan Oh (unable to attend) reports that the directory is close to completion and that she hopes to send it off to the printer this week. SpecPrint vs. BCPS print shop was briefly discussed, and Jon Tarrant offered to share with Susan his positive experience with BCPS print shop.
- c. **Volunteer Coordinator:** Coordinator Janine Eikenberg (unable to attend) thanks those who helped at American Education Week and reports that she is in the process of updating the schedule of lunch room helpers (for which there is still a need) on Signup Genius. She also asks that you please let her know if you are aware of any volunteer needs in the school that we can assist with.
- d. **Outreach/Community Service:** Co-Chair Christina Prescott thanked everyone for participation in the Blizzard of Support holiday project. There was discussion of possible future projects, including a lending library.

- e. **Spirit Wear:** Co-Chair Jacque Pfeifer reported that this was a huge success. We made approximately \$2,400 in profit for the benefit of the PTA, and the items were very well received and delivered just in time for the holidays.
- f. **Sunshine Committee:** Chair Sue Caldwell updated everyone on the homemade cards, treats, and Grauls gift cards provided by the Committee for everyone's birthdays, weddings, and returns from maternity leave from August through January. The Committee also provided winter break treats in the faculty room before the holidays for the entire staff.
- g. **Scholastic Book Fair:** Chair Tami Payne reported that this first Book Fair was a huge success! We grossed almost \$12,000 and made roughly \$3,000 in profit. In addition, we received \$450 in donations for All for Books. We are contemplating doing another event in the spring.
- h. **Yearbook:** Co-Chair Kelly Sevier reported that planning meetings are under way. We will use Lifetouch, the same company that does the school pictures.
- i. **Early Bird Gym:** Coordinator Nicki Jones reported that the program is about to begin and that, as previously publicized, a lottery for the first session will be Thursday night. There will be 30 spots available in each of two groups.
- j. **Fifth Grade Committee:** Co-Chair Tricia Guildener reported that the recent Red Zone fundraiser raised over \$1,000, which will cover half the cost of the planned 5th grade field trip/outing to Genesee Valley.

8. Organizational Structure/Elections:

- a. As discussed at the last general meeting, we continue to look for persons who are interested in serving as officers and board members for the balance of this year (through June 30, 2015) with a view to establishing a broad leadership base for the future. A couple of people have stepped forward, but there is always room for more, so if you are potentially interested in an officer or board position – either for the rest of this year or perhaps for the next school year – please let us know. (We promise not to twist your arm past the breaking point!)
- b. In that vein, although she could not attend the meeting this evening, Kim Mentzner has confirmed her willingness to serve as a Vice President and board member for the balance of the year. Upon motion made and seconded, she was unanimously elected.
- c. Michael reiterated his gratitude to all committee leaders and coordinators who have stepped up over the past several months and emphasized how critical their energy and devotion have been and will continue to be to the achievement of our goals for the year. Thank you! There would be no PTA without you!

- 9. Spring Festival:** This was discussed at a general level. We are looking to hold one that won't conflict with the events being organized by Pot Spring (for May 2nd) and Pinewood (for May 16th). Although we may do some fundraising, our overarching purpose is community building. An initial planning/brainstorming meeting is scheduled for January 22 (details regarding time and place to follow). We hope that if you're interested, whether in taking a lead or just helping out, you'll attend this initial meeting and share your ideas and energy.
- 10. Community Building:** There is definitely a consensus that another social/community-building event would be welcome, perhaps a restaurant night or similar activity. Please contact us with your ideas!
- 11. Website/Communications:** The status of the website was discussed. There is a lot of interest in having one, but we need a volunteer who is willing to take the lead in gathering and maintaining the content once it's up and running.
- 12. Next meeting:** Friday, February 13th at 9:30 am at Mays Chapel Elementary School.
- 13. Adjournment**