

MINUTES
Clifton PTA Meeting
May 11, 2009

Attendees: Arthur Polton, Ellen Colter, Lisa Graine, Patti Hopkins, Elizabeth Vittori
Melanie Lessard,, Annette Abutayeh, Ann Jones, Sydney Sawyer, Ann Donargo, Maria
Bethard

The agenda for the May 11, 2009 meeting was approved.

The minutes from the March 9 and April 13, 2009 meetings were approved.

President's Report – Lisa Graine

SOL's are presently being administered.

The Silent Auction was a success.

Fairfax County has approved that the Clifton Betterment Association run parking for
Clifton Day 2009 at Clifton School. It will be staffed by the Clifton PTA.

Recent and upcoming PTA-sponsored events include the following:

Staff and Teacher Appreciation (May 4-8)

Administrative Professionals Appreciation (April 19-25)

Nurse Appreciation (May 6-12)

Principal's Report - Arthur Polton

Mr. Polton thanked the PTA for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

Dr. Dale, Superintendent of FCPS, has reported that as a result of federal subsidies,
budget cuts for academic year 2009-2010 will not be nearly as severe as formerly
projected. Clifton Elementary will maintain the 13 classroom teachers. One custodial
position will be reduced to ½ time.

Ann Donargo asked about the arrangement of classes and whether there would be a
possibility of larger, lower grade classes adding a "third" teacher. Mr. Polton said that a
typical class size at Clifton has been about 25 students, and that no final decision could
be made until enrollment for next school year has been finalized (over the summer.)

Assistant Principal's Report – Ellen Colter

A Volunteer Appreciation Coffee will be held in the Cafeteria on Thursday, May 14.

Classes are preparing for End of the Year celebrations. Classes are also preparing for
"theme days" (medieval, western, colonial, etc.)

Artist and Authors Night will be held on Thursday, June 11.

Treasurer's Report – Maria Bethard

The current bank balance is \$34,000. Additional bills from the Silent Auction are outstanding.

Fun Fair made \$7,088, just over the budgeted \$7,000

Clifton Elementary received a grant for \$1,000 from Exxon Mobil.

Income from the yearbook was \$300.

1st Vice President – None

2nd Vice President - None

Secretary - None

Staff

Melanie Lessard said the Snack Drive to benefit residents of the Katherine Hanley Shelter is going well. She said she planned to make pictures of “delivery day,” Available through Sydney Sawyer, Chair, Community Outreach and Public Relations Committee.

COMMITTEES

Silent Auction- Lisa Graine for Wendi Picker

Attendance at this year's auction was way down, but generated its average revenue. “The Heart in Hand” served as a nice venue and next year's Chair is considering holding the auction there again next year. Next year's Committee will consider holding the auction during a different month. Current chair's are compiling and revising an “operating manual” for future chairs.

Laptops will be purchased from the Teacher WishList when the Silent Auction has been “closed out.”

Virginia Diner – Dariece Rau

The Virginia Diner program raised \$7,000 this year. Both Mr. Polton and Miss Colter agreed that this was an excellent product that offered great variety to student families. The program runs concurrent with the Sally Foster fundraiser.

FLEX – Dariece Rau

Two new chairs have been identified for the program.

“Turn off the TV Week” –Sydney Sawyer

Mrs. O’Quinn’s class won the gift certificates to Peterson’s Ice Cream Depot.

Public Affairs and Community Outreach Committee – Sydney Sawyer

The “Pennies 4 Patients” Drive raised \$3,316.06 to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Sydney Sawyer circulated a note from LLS.

Learning Garden – Ann Donargo

The garden is in need of additional volunteer help. As the individual “grade” gardens become more established, she plans to enlist parent grade coordinators.

Mr. Polton added that new programs are established on a grade basis, with the hope of expanding them laterally.

Elizabeth Vittori asked about funding of Art in the Schools and Mr. Polton said he was in the process of finalizing it with current AIS Chairs.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

The 2009-2010 Clifton Elementary PTA Budget was voted on and approved. This budget will take effect on July 1, 2009. An annual audit will be performed in Fall 2009.

Clifton PTA Officers were voted upon and approved. New officers will begin their terms on July 1, 2009 and serve through June of 2011. These officers are:

President, Patti Hopkins

1st Vice President (Volunteers) – Annette Abutayeh

2nd Vice President (Fundraising) – Elizabeth Vittori

Secretary – Sydney Sawyer

Treasurer – Ann Jones

Mr. Polton thanked Lisa Graine and members of the PTA Board for their service.

The next meeting of the Clifton Elementary PTA will take place on Monday, September 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.