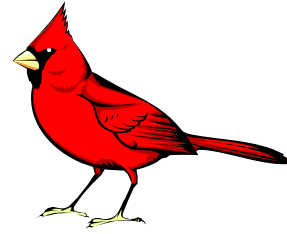


Clifton Elementary School



Clifton Elementary PTA – Meeting Minutes Monday, January 11, 2010

This meeting was called to order by PTA President Patti Hopkins at 7:03 pm

Attendees:

Lisa Chandler, Sydney Sawyer, Ann Jones, Patti Hopkins, Arthur Polton, Ellen Colter, Elizabeth Vittori, Lisa Graine

Agenda for tonight's meeting was approved.

Minutes from the December 2009 meeting were approved.

President's Report – Patti Hopkins

- Southwest Planning Committee - Meeting tonight 7:00 and presenting to the School Board. The committee is recommending that 5 more schools be added to the study. School Board will decide whether or not to move onto phase 2. Full committee to meet the end of January.
- "Ten Cents Makes Sense" – Ron FitzSimmons of the Booster Club of Annandale is trying to lobby to the Board of Supervisors to increase the tax by .10 cents and direct that money to the Fairfax County schools to eliminate the \$156 million debt. More information is available and he is willing to come speak to our group.
- Grandparents Breakfast – Cancelled in December due to snow day. Kristy Wasserott, Chair, open to other dates in the spring. Dates to consider – before Mothers Day weekend; combining Donuts for Dads and Muffins for Mom. Please present ideas to Kristy or Patti.
- Reflections – Three students placed at the County level. Delaney Parks, 2nd grader - 4th place in Photography; Grand Hood, 2nd grader - 1st for Interpretation of Film; Eleana Calderone, 5th grader - 1st for Visual Arts. Thanks to Lisa Ide for chairing this program.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Jones

- Balance: Checking - \$1877.23; Savings - \$15411.10.

Principal's Report – Arthur Polton

- Happy New Year's Wishes to all
- FCPS Budget – Dr. Dale spoke at a meeting of the Elementary School Principals. 2010-2011 Budget will be very lean and tight. Newsletter being distributed electronically called "Bottom Line" - refer to Bottom Line for dates of public hearings. Principals are being charged to educate the community and encourage residents to contact the Board of Supervisors before March 10, 2010. If no money is received from the Board of Supervisors, the cuts will be unprecedented. Possible cuts mentioned Included:

Elimination of all band and string programs
Increasing class size by 1 student
No salary or cost of living increase to teachers.
Reducing 40 Assistant Principal positions/594 total positions

Elimination of reduction of the school based technology specialist.
Elimination of foreign language programs
Elimination of all summer school programs
Closing Pimmet Hills Alternative School
Eliminating full day kindergarten
Increasing teacher to student ratio
Eliminating Freshman and JV sports
Students will pay for AP testing
Eliminating social workers, guidance counselors, psychologists

Assistant Principal's Report – Ellen Colter

- Blood Drive in honor of Ryan Dillon is scheduled for Monday, January 25. Slots filling and walk-ins are welcome.
- Silent Auction – Scheduled for March 12

Committee Reports

- Silent/Live Auction – Lisa Graine – Donations starting to come in. Committee members working on solicitations – please check with Lisa, Carrie Shokraei or Jackie Bullis to avoid duplications of merchants. Other highlights – Baby-sitter list to be compiled and distributed; pre-auctions party Feb 12 – Please bring bottle of wine for auction basket. Ticket prices will range from \$35/single - \$60/couple. Includes beverage tickets. Teachers are free.
- Publicity – Sydney Sawyer – Bound volumes of publicity photos are available in the office dating back to 2002. To date – 10 photos have appeared in the Connection Newspaper.
- Innovation and Invention Fair – Sydney Sawyer Approximately 60 entries so far. We are holding 4 workshops after school. (Preliminary registration spreadsheet distributed.). The Innovation and Invention Team received some exciting news earlier this week. Through the support of Brian Sholtz, the Innovation and Invention Fair received a grant of \$2500 from the Battelle Memorial Institute. Battelle focuses on innovation and they support local groups who are doing initiatives around innovation in education. With this grant we hope to expand some of the training opportunities for our children and maybe add some new dimensions to our program here at Clifton Elementary. We now have \$5000 to spend and are soliciting ideas. Suggestions included: Smartboard for Mrs. Monks room; creating a video to help promote I&I to other schools.
- Pennies for Patients – Sydney Sawyer - March 1-19. Going Green this year – Recycled milk cartons instead of cardboard boxes.
- Art in the School – Sydney Sawyer – We are holding one session after school this year. Date is February 18. We will need shoeboxes – suggestions included contacting Payless.
- Fun Fair – Lisa Graine – Meeting for volunteers went well.

New Business

- Passing of Randy Christianson – Son attended Clifton Elementary. Notice and information on donations will be placed in the teachers lounge.
- Levels of PTA Membership – Ann Jones – Goal to increase membership and simplify multiple payments throughout the year. Membership levels could be established. A higher fee would include yearbook, directory, other PTA fees, etc. Further investigation required.

Unfinished Business - None

Announcements – Next meeting is Monday, February 1:30: pm. Topic will be Teachers Wish List.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.