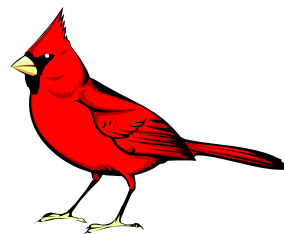


Clifton Elementary School



Clifton Elementary PTA – Meeting Minutes Monday, October 19, 2009

This meeting was called to order by PTA President Patti Hopkins at 7:00 pm

Attendees:

Kathryn Howell, Ina Patton, Rob Jones, Sydney Sawyer, Ann Jones, Patti Hopkins, Annette Abutayah, Lisa Graine, Martin Hobson, Arthur Polton, Ellen Colter, Melanie Lessard, Laurie Vidovich, Connie Milliken, Lisa Desman, Darice Rau, Dawna Thompson, Liz Bradsher, Ann Donargo, Elizabeth Vittori, Lisa Lucas, Bobby Lucas, Heather Williams, Paula McGourty, Cindy Borer, Melanie Lessard.

Agenda for tonight's meeting was approved.

Minutes from the September 2009 meetings were approved.

President's Report – Patti Hopkins

- Clifton Courier – Sent home in the Tuesday folder on the first Tuesday of the month. Submissions need to be to Julie Gohl by approximately the 25th of the preceding month.
- Southwest Regional Planning Study Committee Update – First meeting to be held Thursday, October 29, 2009 at Liberty Middle School. Meetings are open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. Clifton Elementary will be represented by Ina Patton and Charlie Rau.
- Clifton Day Parking – Thanks to Lisa Chandler for coordinating this event and Charlie Chandler for all his help. Clifton Betterment Association rented spaces and will donate \$4.00 out of every \$5.00 collected to Clifton Elementary School. Anticipated profit - \$1300-\$1400.
- Sally Foster/Virginia Diner – Sales down about 50% this year.
- Teachers Soup and Salad Luncheon – Monday, October 26. Contact Lisa Graine to offer to help or provide food.
- Family Halloween Bingo – Friday, October 30. Encourage everyone to attend – in costume!
- Thanksgiving Lunch – Wednesday, November 18. Cyndy Pratt Chair. Help needed the 17th after school and all day on the 18th.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Jones

- Audit of records completed. Copies of the budget with spending to date available on the tables and the 2009-2010 budget is posted on website. Savings account opened to avoid deposit fees. Balance: Checking - \$3418.95; Savings - \$3193.50

Principal's Report – Arthur Polton

- Last day of quarter - October 30.
- Parent Teachers Conferences – November 2-3
- H1N1 Virus Protocol – If a student has a fever he/she will be taken to the clinic, given a mask and isolated. Additional information on FCPS website.
- Assistant Principal Ellen Colter was married on October 3. Wonderful day shared with many staff.

Assistant Principal's Report – Ellen Colter

- Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless – October 16. Held in the gym due to inclement weather. Every child walked approximately 1 mile. Western Fairfax County Christen Ministries will receive \$1290 from this walk.
- Thanksgiving Lunch –Vice Principal will be behind the serving line. (Principal is out of town)

First Vice President's Report - Volunteers – Annette Abutayah

- Family Night Out – Needs chair
- Odyssey of the mind – will not take place this year
- McEducators Night being considered

Second Vice President's Report – Elizabeth Vittori

- Fall Family Picnic – Friday September 25, 2009. Thank you to all for help with the picnic.

Teacher's Reports

- Melanie Lessard – Red Ribbon Week – October 26-30. Flyer in Tuesday folder. SCA Bake Sale on November 3 during elections. Seeking donations of food. Individually wrapped items ideal. Last year brought in over \$800.

Committee Reports

- Sally Foster – Laurie Vidovich – Comparisons 2008 to 2009

	Students participating	Items sold	Wrapping paper	Internet
2008	131	2000	\$9550	\$1900
2009	87	600	\$6000	\$670

- Virginia Diner – Elizabeth Vittori – Down 75%. 35 families participating this year.
- Learning Garden – Ann Donargo Courtyard clean-up scheduled for November 2.

Program

Liz Bradsher, School Board Representative, lead an information session with Q&A

Key points:

- School budgets released today and are “devastating”. Cuts for next year more severe than the tier 3 cuts proposed last year. Programs effected: Band, Freshman and JV sports, all Immersion programs, Budget vote is in May. Fairfax County is also struggling with their budget. Next school Board meeting is October 24 at Centreville Library. Budget can be viewed at the FCPS website. School closures are a possibility – Closure of Pemmit Hills was discussed – Not Clifton.
- Question raised about the amount of money budgeted per student for renovations at Marshall HS is much more than the amount budgeted for renovations at Clifton Elementary. Liz explained that unspent funds go back to other schools in the queue for renovations. Clifton Elementary is still in the queue
- Questions concerning the Southwest Regional Planning Study can be found on the FCPS website. Answers are posted by the school board.
- Clifton’s renovation cost - Need to bring scope of renovations down to be more realistic numbers.
- Clifton’s size – No studies that compare the benefits of a large school to a small school. Mr. Polton pointed out that large schools have more resources to handle the larger enrollment. Student: teacher ratio may continue to rise in Fairfax County due to the budget shortfall.
- Community reps and subcommittee will determine when public input is appropriate. Meetings will be scheduled to keep the public informed. Decision should be made by February. The process is to identify and answer some of the questions brought up tonight. Best choice may not involve closing Clifton or building a new school. The school Board is prepared to listen to the report presented by the Community reps. This is the first engagement process of its kind.
- Plan is to keep boundary issues and Clifton renovation issue together.
- Can ask the School Board for an itemized list of the renovation costs.
- Worse case scenario – Close Clifton and build a new school. Time line has not been discussed, but must to have an architect and a plan. The building of any new school needs to be on a bond. Time frame may be 2-3 years at the very least mostly likely 4 – 5 years away.
- Town has voted not to oppose water. Will not approve sewer. If county pays to have water line run, odds should improve to keep Clifton open

- If closed, the building and land would be recommended for community use.
- Renovations include 11,000 sq feet of instructional space to bring programs up to date.
- Board needs to see benefit of the school to the community. Recommends obtaining the actual financial impact on the businesses if the school closes.
- The process needs to be given a chance to work. The committee should complete its work by the end of February and then the Board will discuss the staff's report and the committee's report. Decisions will be forthcoming. As the time to vote approaches, we will be informed as to the direction the Board may be heading and can take appropriate actions at that time.
- Top 3 most important issues for Clifton:
 - Water – Estimated \$3 million to connect to waterline.
 - Topography – driveway
 - Bringing the building up to code.

New Business – None

Announcements – Next meeting is Monday, November 9 at 7:00pm. Meetings are held each month but alternate between afternoon (3:00pm) and evening (7:00pm) times.

Adjournment – Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm