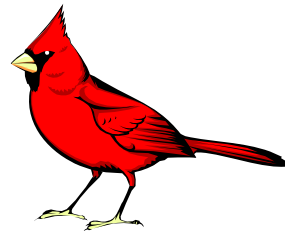


# Clifton Elementary School



## Clifton Elementary PTA – Meeting Minutes Monday, November 9, 2009

This meeting was called to order by PTA President Patti Hopkins at 7:07 pm

### **Attendees:**

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

---

Agenda for tonight's meeting was approved.

Minutes from the October 2009 meetings will be presented for approval at the December meeting.

### **President's Report – Patti Hopkins**

- 2010-2011 FCPS Budget – School Superintendent Jack Dale spoke at the Superintendents Parent Advisory Committee meeting and provided highlights of the school year. Fairfax County students outpaced state and national SAT scores from last year. There is a projected revenue loss of 28.3 million dollars for 2011. Major factor in the total budget shortfall is that the retirement funds lost \$70 million dollars. FCPS will see a \$176 million shortfall. Items that are under consideration include:
  - No salary increases
  - Closing Pimmit Hills Alternative School
  - Eliminating full day kindergarten
  - Eliminating summer school
  - Increasing teacher to student ratio
  - Eliminating Freshman and JV sports
  - Students will pay for AP testing
  - Eliminating social workers, guidance counselors, psychologists

Dale will post the budget the first week in January, followed by discussion and a vote. Last years stimulus package helped prevent the severe tier cuts that were proposed in 2008.

- Teachers Soup and Salad Luncheon – Monday, October 26. Thank you to Lisa Graine for organizing the event. Thank you note from several teachers have been received and were circulated.
- Reflections – Lisa Ide new chair. Haven't participated in the program in 2 years. Seven entries submitted. Reception planned for students and families on November 17.
- Word Study Seminar – The PTA paid for three teachers to attend a seminar on Word Study last month.

### **Treasurer's Report – Ann Jones**

- We received a refund from the IRS for \$3000. Misfiling over the summer caused the PTA to be fined approximately \$25.00/day, but this was reversed and full amount refunded. Balance: Checking - \$3252.05; Savings - \$2582.90. Accounts require no minimum balance and no annual fees.

## Principal's Report – Arthur Polton

- Soup and Salad Lunch – Very nice luncheon that was appreciated by all.
- FCPS Budget – Dr. Dale spoke at a meeting of the Elementary School Principals. Possible cuts mentioned included:

Elimination of all band and string programs  
Increasing class size  
No salary or cost of living increase to teachers.  
Reducing 40 Assistant Principal positions  
Elimination of reduction of the school based technology specialist.

## Assistant Principal's Report – Ellen Colter

- Soup and Salad Lunch – Thank you – very much appreciated.
- Reflections – Thank you for finding a chair and getting program running again. Hopefully, new chair will continue in position.
- Thanksgiving Lunch – Vice Principal and some teachers will be behind the serving line.
- Stamp Night/Book Fair – December 3

## First Vice President's Report - Volunteers – Annette Abutayeh

- Clifton Day Parking – Thank you to Lisa Chandler for coordinating parking. Similar arrangements were considered for the Haunted Trail, but not pursued due to potential risks from inadequate lighting, etc.

## Teacher's Reports

- Melanie Lessard – SCA Bake Sale on Election Day was extremely successful, bringing in approximately \$600.

## SW Regional Planning Committee Update – Patti Hopkins

On November 5, 2009, the SW Regional Planning Study Committee met at Fairfax High School at 7:00pm. A summary of the events of this meeting are listed below:

1. Kevin Sneed, FCPS Director of Design and Construction, presented about design capacity vs. programmatic capacity in FCPS and how enrollment numbers are estimated based on potential capacity.
2. Given that Clifton ES is the only school at risk for closure and the only school mentioned by name in the report (with approx 15 pages devoted to CES issues in the draft study), Charlie Rau was given five minutes to address the committee. He gave an overview of the CES situation from the perspective of a Clifton resident/parent, highlighting facts about the impact of closing CES on their schools/communities, and an indication that renovation costs could very well be substantially less than the draft feasibility study indicates (\$8M to \$12M versus the \$19M in the draft feasibility study).
3. The committee members broke into small groups to brainstorm ideas about potential sub-committee structure.
4. After reporting to the larger committee, we came up with seven sub-committees of approximately 5-7 people to tackle specific issues from the draft feasibility study. These subcommittees are along the lines of:
  - (1) DATA- To validate or update projections, current capacities and other demographic or quantitative data from Feasibility Study
  - (2) COST EFFECTIVENESS- To evaluate options, costs and community impacts of each scenario (i.e., new school, renovation, closure, boundaries, transportation, etc)
  - (3) SCHOOLS/SCOPE/BOUNDARIES- To study if the study targets the correct schools or if other nearby schools should be included in the study. Also to evaluate the appropriateness of the scope of the study and the impact of boundary changes
  - (4) CLIFTON- To conduct a thorough review of the appropriateness of renovation vs. closure
  - (5) EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF EXISTING SCHOOLS- To determine if existing schools slated for overcrowding can be added on to address the overcrowding
  - (6) PROGRAMS AND CENTERS- To look into whether or not programs and centers could be shifted to allow more capacity/space at certain schools.

(7) LIBERTY AND OTHER SITES- To study the land/site development of a new school on the Liberty site and other possible parcels of land where a new school would be more convenient for the overcrowding issue

(8) Leadership/ Oversight- A sub-committee composed of the two Committee Chairs, a newly appointed Committee Secretary (Amy Riddick from Fairview) and Chairs from each of the seven Sub-committees) To provide a checks and balances system to make sure that the process is productive and that ideas are communicated from sub-committees to the larger committee

5. Sub-committees are to meet in the next three weeks and the larger committee will re-convene on December 3, 2009, location TBA.

Questions/comments/concerns for Ina Patton or Charlie Rau, should be sent to: [repsforclifton@gmail.com](mailto:repsforclifton@gmail.com)

#### **Unfinished Business**

- Swipe cards for computerized volunteer check-in – Lisa Graine. Information presented earlier was incorrect. The cost is approximately \$20.00/card. Not pursuing.

**Announcements** – Next meeting is Monday, December 14 at 3:00pm. Meetings are held each month but alternate between afternoon (3:00pm) and evening (7:00pm) times.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.