

CES PTO General Meeting Minutes February 10, 2015

Attendance: Donna Nystrom, Casie Couch, Jennifer Baldwin, Shelley Story, Daphne Raman Taylor, Flora Sanders, Olga Marks, Michelle Moore, Dawn Green, Susan Curtis, Antonia Guerra-Watson, Lori Davidson, Kim Richardson, Maria Oberoi, Stephanie Thatcher, Michelle Copeland, Dyane Arnn, Juliet Williams, Kim Taylor, Susan Berlew, Angela Smith and Stacy Wagnon

Call to Order (9:23am)

I. Welcome / Call to Order

- Angela Smith welcomed everyone. Our last meeting was in November and our next one will be our end of year luncheon in May (date is not set yet).
- We need to approve our meeting minutes from 11/11/14. Kim Taylor motioned for approval and Dawn Green seconded.

II. Ms. Wagnon's Report

- Please stop by the copier/workroom for some yummy snacks for volunteer appreciation this week.
- January/February are our quiet months while we get ready for our spring testing. Open House will be the Thursday before Spring Break on 3/5. Watch out for testing dates in April since we will have some closed campus days.
- Ms. Wagnon introduced Dr. Carter, our new librarian for the remainder of the year. We are so blessed and lucky to have her as she is a retired librarian with tons of experience. Dr. Carter spoke about her background and explained she wants to know what each kid enjoys reading so she can make other recommendations. She has found CES kids to be very precise in their interests! Ms. Wagnon will start interviewing in the summer for a permanent replacement next year.
- Ms. Wagnon is excited about the Spring Fundraiser and appreciates the committee's hard work.

III. President's Report (Angela Smith)

- Michelle Moore will discuss more, but we just disbursed \$26,000 for curriculum and tech based needs for CES. This is only the second time we have used online voting and we had 117 people vote. This allows more parents to be able to participate that might not be able to attend meetings.
- Our Intermediate schools will visit CES in April for the 4th grade parents:
 - DIS will be on 4/2 at 9am
 - Eubanks will be on 4/9 at 9am
- We will be using our Sticky Notes needs/wants for the teachers again at our Valentine's Day parties this week. This is a great way for parents to contribute directly to their child's classroom to fill the teachers needs. Make sure to check their rooms for options. Flora asked if Encore will be participating too? Yes, especially Science and Ms. Wagnon will check with the others. It was suggested that they place them near the library so everyone sees them and does not have to go to each room.
- Hospitality Sponsors - We provide luncheons for the teachers once a month and the committee's budget is small. Catering options are hard to find due to rising costs so if you know of anyone willing to help, please notify Christy McNew. We provide lunch for 75 people. Thank you to the Wert and McNew families for sponsoring last week's great lunch.
- Jennifer Baldwin is collecting names for Volunteer Name Badges. They are \$10 and you can pay in the office. She will order them next week. This saves time and money when you check in the office.
- Spring Fundraiser Class Baskets - our Volunteer Coordinators have sent emails to the classes. We have a collection for the baskets at the PTO registration at the beginning of the year and we use those funds towards the baskets that are auctioned off for our spring fundraiser. It was suggested to give parents the opportunity to donate items to help with the baskets which is strictly voluntary and we appreciate all the support!

IV. Vice President Report (Michelle Moore)

- Michelle thanked everyone for their participation in the disbursement vote and all the items passed so we disbursed \$26,000. She reviewed some of the items: preschool benches, hands on materials for K for all classes, 2 new math

learning centers for 1st, math enrichment for 3rd and a Time Magazine subscription to support nonfiction, math enrichment flip charts and hot plates for science for 4th, Lego robotics kit for Quest, beam balances and new books for Science, a karaoke machine and shelving unit for Music. Special thanks to the Williams family who donated a wii system to PE and we will be buying some games to go with that. One of the other items approved supports a guest speaker and prizes for Red Ribbon Week in the fall. And most importantly, we will be adding a new iPad cart that includes 30 new iPads valued at \$16K. Several grades asked for a few new ones and this made more sense so the whole school can utilize. Ms. Wagnon discussed our current iPads - the first cart is getting a little outdated (they were the original models) but still work and the second cart includes 2s. The new cart will include the new Air iPads.

- Volunteer of the Month - Congrats to Fanny Dunagan who is our December winner and to Lisa Dalton, our January winner! We appreciate all the time they give in and outside the classroom. We are always looking for nominations so please send those in!
- It is PTO Nominating Time! Michelle is our Nominating Committee Chair and they have started the process so you will be hearing from her soon if you haven't already. The committee includes Dawn Green, Sarah Gauch, Casie Couch and Kim Richardson. We have many positions open: Beautification, Community Partners, Directory/Advertising, Programs, Spirit Shop, Spring Fundraiser, Student Activities, TAW, and Website. Please encourage friends and send us names! We hope to have our new board complete next month.

V. Treasurer's Report (Dawn Green)

- Dawn has copies of the latest budget, which now includes our Fall Fundraiser numbers.
- Spirit Shop has been very successful this year!
- Community Partners has already raised \$3800 so keep up the shopping and submit your box tops!

VI. Committee Reports

- Community Partners (Juliet Williams) - McAllister's dinner tonight from 5-8pm CES receives 10%. Thank you to Donna Clarin who has done a great job at finding community options to partner with. She is working on another Texas U Can Paint date. This month is Kinder Box Top collection and we will have another spring contest after that. Dawn asked about Amazon Smiles but not sure if Donna has set that up. Don't forget to register at Tom Thumb and mention CES at Speedy Bee!
- Homeroom Parents - Valentines Day Parties are this Friday! PreK @10:45, K@12:05, 1st@11:10, 2nd@12:30, 3rd@11:20, and 4th@11:45.
- Teacher Appreciation Week (Kim Richardson & Lori Davidson) - TAW is the week of May 4-8th with a Super Hero theme. Monday we will have a breakfast, Tuesday will be our flower day (encouraging just one flower per kid), Wednesday our hospitality lunch, Thursday a dangerous desert bar and Friday the swag bag day. Look out for the sign up to help!
- Spring Fundraiser (Kim Taylor) - Boots, Bling & Blackjack is on 3/21. Tickets on sale now! We will have a drawing for a free night at the hotel for people who buy tickets now until next Wednesday. The best option on tickets is our Full House which includes a reserved table for 8, an extra \$500 in casino chips, family name recognition and each child's picture on the CES bulletin board. We would like to collect the class basket donations by this Friday, 2/13. We are looking for some adult volunteers for that evening.
- Outreach (Casie Couch) - Thank you for all the coats donated in December for Philip's Wish and for the Valentines craft event supporting Metroport Meals on Wheels. We have a current food drive for Metroport now until the end of February for oatmeal, dried fruit, trail mix, and breakfast bars. Please place them in the mesh bins in the lobby before 2/27. Our last event for the year will be on 4/7 supporting the Heritage House.

VII. Announcements

- Spirit Shop will be open 2/11 and 2/25 from 10am-1pm
- Valentines Parties are this Friday 2/13
- All Pro Dad's Breakfast is next week 2/20 at 7am
- CES Spring Fundraiser 3/21 at 7pm (the silent auction starts 3/2 and ends 3/21 at 2pm)

- Cowtown Race is 2/28

VIII. Special Guests - Diron Hill, SRO Eubanks Intermediate and Brett Wilson, SRO Carroll Middle School

- **Officer Brett Wilson** - she has worked here for 9 years and loves the middle school level. Most parents don't know that once your child is 10 years old, they are responsible for their actions in Texas. She recommends you utilize your SRO and ask questions - their main job is to serve and protect the campus. She works CPS cases from 0-16 years of age and gets to see those through from beginning to end. They try to avoid sending kids to juvenile justice system. They use Teen Court and 2nd Opportunity for Success which works with the parents to correct behavior. Make sure to discuss cell phone/internet safety with your children and help them understand what you write down/post is forever! By 4th or 5th grade they are all asking for phones. You must monitor and use safety software. Constantly review the history and take away. Use your SROs for app questions.
- **Officer Diron Hill** - this is his first year as an SRO at Eubanks; he is a retired police chief. 5th-6th grade is a tough transition, everything is happy at the elementary level, but not necessarily at the intermediate level. Their bodies change, social changes, school becomes harder, etc. The best thing to do is to take time to talk to them honestly, encourage them (this will be hard, but you can do it). There is a lot of 5th grade drama with girls, lots of hormones and emotions, lots of school pressure, new friends, sports pressure, and social pressure. Remember to be kind, honest and understanding. He has implemented new attire on Fridays and tries to have fun with them. There are many differences between 5th and 6th. Be the best PI that you can, know their phone inside and out and educate yourself, watch for deletions. On the positive side, a phone can be helpful to locate them, in an emergency and a good communication tool. Educate yourself on common acronyms - the kids have their own! They will be exposed to these things starting in 4th grade or younger so be ready for these conversations. Be careful of internet access on phones and iPads. He recommends everyone gives up their electronics at bedtime - it ruins sleep, they need a break, no temptations. Keep the app password to yourself so everything goes through you! Don't give a device as a present. You own it and the child only gets to use so you can take away and view at any time.
- Apps to watch out for: Whisper (social confessional), Secret, AskFM, Kick, Instagram, Twitter

- Officer Wilson recommended using mspy.com or Safe Eyes to monitor.
- There was a question about some of the recent attempted child abductions and they confirmed that we do share intelligence with our neighboring communities.
- Another question was asked about 5th/6th boys and how they handle the transition. Officer Hill has started a Citizenship Award that provides mentoring to others when you are awarded.
- In our community there is a lot of pressure for Dragons to win. Make sure your children know it is okay to fail - there is a lot of pressure!
- Attend SPARK meetings as they are very informative.

Meeting Adjourned 10:48am