

**Fall Creek Elementary School PTA
General Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2011**

The PTA held its monthly meeting in the school cafeteria. Roughly 30 people were in attendance including principal Karen Keller.

Call to Order

The meeting was brought to order by PTA president Chris Batman-Mize at 6:05pm. Chris presented the agenda and everyone introduced themselves around the room.

Dispersement of PTA Funds

A recent request for a scanner has been taken care of.

The PTA has been asked to provide two elmo carts. The cost is ~\$560 per cart, for a total of \$1120. One cart will be used to lock up the new PTA computer. Once ordered, they will likely be delivered quickly. Eric Dixon made a motion to use PTA funds to purchase the elmo carts. Ron Mize seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no opposition or abstaining votes.

Vitamin L

A suggestion was made to bring the Vitamim L singing group to the school. The cost would be \$800 and the group would perform for entire school. Each teacher would be provided with CD of the music. The performance would happen this year, probably in mid June.

There was concern among parents about the cost of the program being too high, compared to other performances like Tom Knight or Mrs McPuppet, also considering that Vitamin L will be performing for free at the Ithaca festival in June. There was also a concern that the performance wouldn't tie in with the curriculum. Karen Keller was concerned how this would work logistically, since it would be ideal for the group to work with the music teacher, but the school is in a funny spot this year with two separate music teachers. Another parent was concerned that the PTA should not just be spending money, the PTA should be an advocacy group first and foremost.

No motion was made to spend PTA funds on a Vitamin L performance.

PTA Officer Elections

Elections for the PTA board were held at the meeting. The transition to the new board took place at the close of the meeting.

The following people were nominated for PTA board:

President: Chris Batman-Mize

VP: James Haines-Burnham and Asia Bonacci

Recording Secretary: Moira Sheehan

Corresponding Secretary: Timothy Weber

Treasurer: Mike Charnoky

Although not an official PTA officer position, Brian Walder was nominated to be the chair of the membership committee.

The officers were unanimously elected by the PTA members at the meeting.

District Budget Vote

Chris Mize made the following announcement: At 7:00pm tonight, Dr. Brown is giving a presentation on the ICSD budget in the high school cafeteria. Other school representatives will be assembled and at 7:30 there will be a vote. Our school needs a quorum of 10 people in attendance to vote. Ten parents volunteered to go to the budget meeting.

School of Rock and Talent Show

The School of Rock program still needs to figure out date for the final performance. One possibility the last Friday program on June 17. Karen Keller mentioned that the summer birthdays could be announced at the Friday program on the previous week. It was suggested to talk to Kathleen regarding scheduling at Friday program, to make sure there are not a lot of other things happening on June 17.

The talent show will be Wednesday May 25. Jen Demarest volunteered to work “crowd control” with the kids.

Leadership for Events

Chris Mize made an announcement about the need for leadership for next year's PTA programs. She passed around a signup sheet to solicit volunteers.

Rummage Sale

Susan Shrog made an announcement about the rummage sale fundraiser that is happening this Saturday from 8:30-1:00. She passed around a signup sheet for volunteers. She needs help on Friday afternoon moving tables and setting up, and also needs help from people who have access to a truck to help transport stuff that did not sell to the Salvation Army. She also needs people to drop off donations on Friday afternoon.

Spelling Bee

Timothy Weber announced that he is looking into organizing a spelling bee. This idea was suggested by a student who wrote to the PTA. Timothy asked for input and suggestions from parents. One parent spoke fondly of her spelling bee memories and thought it would be a good idea. Karen Keller suggested the idea of following the IPEI spelling bee idea using teams of 3 people, as this might kids feel safer and more willing to participate.

Race to Nowhere

Chris Mize announced that the documentary film “Race to Nowhere” is playing this Wednesday at Cinemapolis from 7-9pm. The subject of the film is the education system. Tickets are available online for \$10. Tickets at the door will cost \$15. There will be a discussion afterward.

Three for Me

Chris Mize again brought up the idea of organizing a “Three for Me” program at Fall Creek, to help recruit more parent volunteers. The idea would be that when parents volunteer for 3 hours, they would be recognized by the PTA and a paper apple with the parent's name would be hung up in the school hallway. As a thank you to volunteers, the PTA would supply childcare one night of childcare so that parents could have a night out. Chris is looking for help to organize this.

Food at Meetings

Dierdre Kurzweil announced that she is will be volunteering to coordinate food for PTA meetings next year. She is looking for a volunteer to help as backup when she is out of town. Dierdre also mentioned that next year's fall fundraiser will feature Hilby and volunteers will be needed for the event.

Audit Committee

Mike Charnoky announced that volunteers are needed for an audit committee, to review the PTA finances.

Petition about Kathleen

A parent announced that kindergarten teacher Kathleen Halton will be assigned to 5th grade next year and that Kathleen does not want to do this. He asked parents to sign a petition stating their opposition to this action.

Karen Keller confirmed this statement. She said that staffing decisions are up to the principal's discretion. Karen said that she was not at liberty to discuss details, as they were confidential. She said she was open to input from the community.

End of Year Party

Mary Waisbrot will be organizing the end of year playground party this year. No further details were available.

Jen Demarest solicited ideas for organizing a food competition like the guac-off and salsa-off that happened in previous years. A “dip-off” won the most support.

Yearbook

This year it seems that it will not be possible for 5th graders to help with the yearbook. Every year, Mary Waisbrot usually works with the fifth grade students on the yearbook. Last year, the yearbook couldn't be put together with the usual process and the PTA bought new software to do the layout. However, there were no computers at the school which could run the software so the students weren't able to help with the yearbook. This year, the PTA bought a new computer for yearbook layout but it looks like it is too late in the process to involve the fifth graders.

Meeting is adjourned: 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Charnoky
Fall Creek PTA Recording Secretary