

**Millersville Elementary School PTA, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
November 6, 2008**

Present:

Stephanie Caruso
Roxanna Kingston
Renee Hoover
Cathy Palmer
Lisa Sarro
Lori Skalitsky

Maria T. Murphy
Margie Harrison
Jerri Holiday
Tammy Brendle
Amy Andrews

Jennifer Conner
Liz Finnerty
Monica McGirt
Marsha Bradley
Annie Medford

The PTA General Membership Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm at Millersville Elementary School, Art Room.

October's meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve October's Minutes: Renee Hoover

Seconded: Marsha Bradley

Passed

CAC Report; Monica McGirt CAC Rep

CAC = Citizens Advisory Committee to Board of Ed.

Need bodies for CAC

- Monica is now an elected officer and brought to the meeting a great deal of information about the CAC, changes in the coming year and next, and issues addressed.
- The CAC has been very much focused on Middle School last few and Middle School Reform. Monica gave many statistics about how AAC Middle Schools are doing in different subjects. All information is available on the Yahoo group; email Monica for access (greatspearsman@verizon.net)
 - Big change—next year going back to 6-period day; good news, now is A/B schedule (one semester Social Studies, next Science); change will cost \$7.4 million (lengthening school day, offering more course choices); 6-58 minute periods, 25 minutes lunch, passing time; all teachers will teach four out of six classes; will increase opportunities for students to world and classical languages (for instance, Meade will be teaching Arabic and Chinese)
 - Can go to different school if want
 - Teachers = increased case load from 90-120 students; 86-116 minutes planning time
- Calendar Committee
 - School starts 24 August 2009
 - Next year's Spring Break, whole week plus one day
- Redistricting in South County, Pasadena
- Arlington Echo lost a grant, lost an employee, down to two

Growth * Change * Progress

- Concerns with use of school fields by Parks and Rec (e.g. school bands getting kicked off fields)
- Anyone can come to CAC—anyone in county, not just parents; Wed. November 19, 6 pm at Board of Ed at Riva Road; B of Ed mtg follows

Treasurer's Report

Chick Fil A night did not bring in as much as past events have; election night, poor weather, short notice. Chick Fil A suggested do again in January, on a school day and they'll send over the cow.

Budget discussion: reviewed proposed revised budget; changes discussed:

- Spiritwear went back to school
- TBD fundraising line item reduced; it is based on projected earnings from fundraisers and don't anticipate earning that much
- Residual line item: a bit extra left from the Reading Patio so put back in PTA account
- Reduced training/conventions – the training is either free or we won't attend conventions
- Trees: reduced by \$200
- DI: reduced to cover registration and Team Packs, plus a little extra. If team does go to Globals, they can come back and ask for help if they need help.
- \$1 entries: placeholders for accounting
- Lost tooth boxes: Ms. Robin found alternative
- Scholarships: had been \$100 for years; had increased last year for the first time; out of our reach. Staff members also asked for the \$500 to be removed: they appreciated the thought, but would like to see the money go to MES's current students.
- Lobby display case: removed; lots of research to be done, hope to do next year
- Instructional materials: Was for Open Court when it was new and the teachers needed additional material; shouldn't need it anymore
- Pre-K reading program: Not being done this year
- Question: What are benches for? Mrs. Brendle requested for out front; nice for people waiting. One on each side of the sidewalk, but low on priority list.
- What are the clubs? Explained them. French Club got grant, not included.

Modify goals in accordance with budget changes

- Church across the street donating time, not benches
 - Church background – have done a great deal to support the school: they run Chess Club, painted a hallway, tutoring last year for MSAs. MES nominated them for Northern AAC Chamber of Commerce award last May and they

Motion to Approve Budget: Renee Hoover

Seconded: Monica McGirt

Passed

President's Report

- Evening meetings changed to 6 pm for all future evening meetings; need to start earlier since meetings are covering so much material and 7:00 pm meetings ended too late.
- Dedication of Reading Patio last Monday (October 27)
 - Walkway from school was built by Blake Carzon and Ernesto Najero
- Dec 6 Holiday Shop at Baldwin Hall
 - Classic Photos called Mrs. Brendle to ask if having pictures with Santa this year? Yes, we want that. Saturday, time TBD. Tammy needs times ASAP so can secure date.
- Dec 15th Family Night at Fuddruckers, 5-8 pm Not allowed to pass out coupons on property, must get ahead of time. Can give to someone else, not necessarily MES family; percentage received is based on sales, so eat a lot and bring friends

PTA Committee Reports

Got Chairs for all but Awards and Recognition and Yearbook.

Awards and Recognition

- No report

Birthday Book Club – Report on behalf of Karin Dorsey

- Invites for Aug – Nov birthdays being sent out, books are ready to be purchased

Book Fair – Report from Stephanie Caruso

- Going well; Lori handed in totals so far before meeting --\$4900 not including credit cards and there were lots; Family Night was a huge success; still two days to go

Box Tops for Education – Report from Stephanie Caruso

- Supposedly mailed three checks, we have not received any of them (Aug, 1 Oct, last Wed.) to PTA, we've never received any of them. Call to verify, ask them to fax a copy of check and letter to school
- Last box top run was about \$700

Community Service – Report from Maria T. Murphy

- Have gotten four service members' names, also looking into either a K-9 or a Medical Clinic to support
- Need to meet with Mrs. Brendle about next steps.
- Want to send care packages in time for Christmas, but will require being mailed by 20 November. Still need to get letter to teachers, families about the program and put out boxes to collect letters, drawings, and care package donations.

Growth * Change * Progress

Cultural Arts – Report from Stephanie Caruso

- Anne Harrison not here, but she has been talking to Mrs. Brendle and working on dates

Fundraising – Report from Stephanie Caruso

- Next meeting Thursday, 1 November at 9:00 am, Stephanie Caruso's house, please come
 - Have a list, something planned each month, have a bigger event in Spring, need another big one for sooner
- More suggestions: Noodles & Co. gives 25%; Ledo'; Juicebox fundraiser
- Safeway/Giant Receipts – Leslie Wilson should have info; Maria Murphy to try to get it and post on website
- Chili Cook Off – May 2, Michelle Nesbit sending out letter to get meeting set, come up with themes, start getting auction items

Hospitality

- Deli Days - first one Friday, November 7

Membership – Report from Renee Hoover

279 Families at Millersville

90 families have joined (181 members)

60 Staff and teachers total at Millersville

17 staff/teachers have joined

- National PTA advocates for country, so the larger the organization the bigger the clout with Congress.
- Amy Andrews: Need to express that joining is not about coming to meetings.
- Renee: Need to target early next year
- Annie: Hopefully when the Directory comes out people will want to join.
- Renee: Need explanation of where money goes because of feedback re: amount of dues
- Mrs. Brendle will put in Dec message a blurb about joining PTA
- Stephanie Caruso: We will publish newsletter and see where it goes.

Where should we have membership sign up opportunities? No to restaurant events, but yes to Holiday Shop.

Newsletter – report from Marsha Bradley

- First newsletter coming out on Tuesday, 11 November;
 - remove book fair article for November Newsletter (it will be over by publication)
 - grab Leslie Wilson to put in Giant Receipt article.
 - needs Calendar of events.
- Marsha needs a list of emails for Committee Chairs so can notify that she has not gotten submission; send submission to Marsha with a cc to Stephanie;
- **Articles must be to Marsha the second Friday of every month.**

Recycling

- No report

Safety – Report from ?

- Shelter in place is in place, pretzels in metal container; cheese crackers being donated to Sarah's house since they were manufactured in a place that has peanuts and we have kids with allergies
- No water necessary, school has bottled water and that can be used if locked down

Website – Maria T. Murphy

- Has been updated since the beginning of the school year. Will be sending out NewsFlashes soon; needed email address lists. Check it often! Will only send Newsflashes for significant changes, so as to void flooding everyone's emails.

Yearbook – Report from ?

- Teachers Ms. Sauer, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Curtis volunteered
- If take pictures, hang onto them for yearbook
- Several members expressed their displeasure in last year's yearbook
- Jamie Turner, Cris DiBenio volunteered to help too

Suggestion from new PTA parents: When new K parents come to register, give them a PTA 101 and for new students

School

Human Relations Committee

- No report.

Principal's Report

- Halloween Parade great; having it outside was wonderful
- Fundraiser – made \$40,000/ profit \$17,000
 - Must have 100% pickup on Friday, November 21 between 3:30-6:30 pm because refrigeration turned off for electrical work
- Behavior Necklaces – hope everyone is pleased
 - Everyone is allowed to take them home, but return; no extras if lost
- Stastics: 79% Sept, 85% Oct; have high expectations and they are clear
 - (Can't gloat over going to Mega Party, or won't get tree charm for December)
- Need members on School Improvement Team (SIT), 0745-0830 Tuesdays; next one is Tuesday, November 11
 - Every school has a plan, Team works to achieve them
 - Math advanced level scores
 - Behaviors – safe and orderly
 - Special Ed and Regular Ed integration
 - Community engagement (working with Church)

Growth * Change * Progress

- If want to attend please email Tammy (tbrendle@aacps.org) so have enough copies of things.

Teachers' Report –

- Tracy Bentley has requested a CD player for listening station because hers broke; can PTA buy one? Amy Andrews offered to donate their Barbie tape/CD player if Tracy does not mind it being pink and Barbie.
- Excited about Deli Days

Move to adjourn Meeting: Renee Hoover

Second: Annie Medford

Meeting adjourned: 8:12 pm