

Home and School Association Meeting

December 7, 2011 at 7 pm

Attendees: Becky O'Hara, Yoonie Hong Lint, Victoria Paul, Ryan DeVitis, Peggy Hermann, Gina Szathmary, Megan Salvesen, Lori Rufo, Jen Morris, Maria Purdy, Jen Reimer, Michelle Mooney, Kathy Nestor, Staci Gillespie, Patty Mefford, Karyn Gerard.

1. School Board President Larry Feinberg and Education Voters of PA member Ian Moran will present information about issues affecting the school district, including upcoming budget concerns and voucher legislation -

Larry Feinberg - Times are changing. At National and state level money is being spent to privatize school. Policies being set in Harrisburg are designed to divert money for charter schools and vouchers. \$900 million lost this year. Preliminary budget will be looked at the next school board meeting. Teacher contract is expiring. Voucher bill still in play (not senate bill 1). Legislators Vitali and Leach are strong advocates for public education. Mr. Feinberg has a website - Keystonestateeducationcoalition.com.

Education Voters of PA - Work for parent advocacy of public education. Their website has numbers to call, information on how to write effective letter to congressmen. They help people get involved on individual level. Advocacy training. They set up phone banks when issues come up to raise awareness. Don't take it for granted, stand up for public education.

2. Principal Marsella's remarks - Effects of cuts are already happening. Cut backs in reading specialist, special ed teachers, librarians. For the 1st time, Chatham will have economically disadvantaged cohort to be accounted for adequate yearly progress. As that number goes up, those children will need help and support. This support is being reduced, ie, library as LA support (instruction connection), guidance counselor time diminished. We are required to fund for what feeds the tests. Everything else that contributes to a well rounded educational experience is fair game.

3. Teacher Representative Ms. Grant and Mrs. Pernaci remarks/requests: The teachers who were at the pancake breakfast enjoyed it, mingling with students and parents.

Teacher wish list:

- speaker system for gym (\$800-\$900)
- Kindergarten rug - need specific cost
- Cork strips - 1st grade (\$100)
- fans for classroom
- Plate stands for art room (\$30)

Voted to fund speaker system, cork strips, and plate stands.

4. Board member and committee leader updates

- a. Treasurer's Report - Looks like about \$800 was raised from pancake breakfast (food sales, poinsettia sale, crafts). The walk a thon brought in \$7,975, the Kids Stuff books brought in \$562, and the rewards programs (Target/escrrip) brought in \$816. Artist in residence came in under budget.
- b. Fundraising/Adult social - Sat, Feb 11, 7-10 pm at McGillicuddy's, \$30/single, \$50/couple. There have been 3 sold already. Tickets will be available at the door. Raffles, silent auction. At McGillicuddy's , now thru June, on Sundays 20% of bill will be donated to Chatham if you mention Chatham Park to your server.
- c. Artist in Residence - Tiles from last year are up. The 5th grade project is installed.
- d. Book Fair - How did the book fair do? We don't know yet. The question was raised, next year can we run scholastic book fair here at school? We'll look into it.
- e. Family Portrait night
- f. Pumpkin decorating contest - was a success.
- g. Pancake breakfast - Great job Colleen and Diane!
- h. art in the classroom - short of volunteers, but it is going well.
- i. assemblies - kids loved the laser show. Feb has a dance assembly.
- j. Golden Apple Program - has started.
- k. 5th Grade yearbook - pictures slowly coming in. Still looking for graphic designer, pricing printers.
- l. Box tops for education/passive income streams - see fundraising page on website for details.
- m. service clubs - everything's going well.
- n. school spirit sales - For the Spring, looking into ordering online (working with CM). Still have umbrellas, magnets available. Some newer teachers expressed interest in Chatham clothing spirit wear.
- o. Ski club - will be an upcoming meeting.
- p. Intradistrict Council
- q. HSD education foundation school empowerment grant - project decided on is school tv show. they are meeting and working on grant.
- r. bingo night - working on getting permits. Scheduled for Jan 20th.

s. talent show - approx. 40 kids signed up. Jan 9 and 11 are practice days. 5th grade finale practice days are Jan 12, 19, 26. Feb 2 is rehearsal at 6 at high school. Feb 5 is show time, 1 pm.

5. General Information

Chestnutwold PTO is hosting a "no tease week". On January 25, at 7 pm for parents there will be a speaker to talk about anti-bullying. All are invited to attend.

Looking for a 1st grade parent to head up alphabet arbor. Contact Becky if interested.

Mrs. Noone's college age daughter, an early childhood education major, is looking for a summer nanny position. You can contact Mrs. Noone.

Web site updates - Adding a fundraising page, information on passive fundraising opportunities. Sign up Target/Giant/Genuardi cards, Chatham gets a portion of purchases. Links for public school advocacy will be on community links page.

Large amount of clothes are in the lost and found on tables outside the gym.