

Chatham Park Home and School Association

October 5, 2011 7:00 pm

Attendees: Patty Mefford, Jen Morris, Rich Van Trieste, Jen Reimer, Megan Salvesen, Lauren Grant, Dan Marsella, Maria Pernaci, Ryan Devitis, Ruth Ealkenstein, Victoria Paul, Christine Longenau, M Mooney, Kin Stewart, Kathy Nestor, Julie Schultz, Becky O'Hara, D Cappelletti, Kevin Burson, Gloria Burson, Lisa Pieters, Yoonie Hong Lint, Sally Braud, Sharon Sweitzer, Sandy Olsavsky, Suzanne Meckendorn, Lauren Wagner, Colleen Casadei, Maria Purdy

1. School board member Larry Feinberg encouraged parents to attend the Delaware County PA PASS Parent Advocate Legislative Forum on October 13. This year's budget won't be better than last, they are considering taking away additional funds. Public school parents need to come out to say we value public education.

2. Principal Marsella's remarks:

These are tough times in public schools in terms of funding: increase in class size, reduced support (loss of 1/2 reading specialist), reduction from 5 to 3 librarians. Library used to be extension of LA class, now it's a special. Reduction of resources.

PSSA scores last year were exceptionally well.

3rd and 4th grades Math and LA mid to upper 90% proficient/advanced

5th grade math 95.3% proficient/advanced

5th grade LA 87.6% proficient/advanced

Pursue audit to work with 5th grade teachers to look at what is working, to adjust LA program if necessary. Everyday math has been successful.

Alphabet arbor - Previously planted 1 new tree each year with the 5th grade, corresponding to a letter of the alphabet. Up to I or J. Discussion of bringing this back and associate it with kindergarten or 1st grade.

Book Fair - Because of librarian situation, pairing with 3 other schools and doing the Barnes & Noble approach. More information to come.

3. Teacher Representative remarks/requests

Thank you for positive connection, teachers are looking forward to a great year. Thanks for the flip camera (every grade has access to it). We are postponing wish list vote until December after the walk a thon.

4. Committee Leader updates:

a. Fundraising - \$175 profit from back to school picnic (sale of water, hot dogs)
\$500 from Kids Stuff books

2 main fundraisers: 1. Walk a thon next Friday. Hope to raise average \$35 per child

2. February 11, 2012 Adult social beef and beer at McGillicuddy's, more info to follow

- b. Artist in Residence - On schedule
- c. Art in the classroom - Will occur 3 times a year. During art class, not classroom time. Coordinate with Mrs. Cohan. There's a kick off meeting at 9 am with Mrs. Cohan on Friday.
- d. Upcoming assemblies - Monday 's assembly is Jump with Jill - focus is on nutrition. It is sponsored by the Oakmont Farmer's Market. Dec. 2 is Prismatic magic show (lasers)
- e. Library aides/book fair - the librarian is here 3 full days, library aide 2 days. Don't feel a need for parent volunteers. Question came up - Will the golden apple program occur? There will be follow up with the librarian regarding that.
- f. 5th Grade yearbook - Committee is together, just had their first meeting.
- g. Box Tops for education - Also collecting Campbell's labels. Submission at end of October, please send in any box tops in the next 2 weeks.
- h. Family Portrait night - Up coming on 10/18 and 10/19. Access the website for form.
- i. Pumpkin decorating contest - Drop off pumpkins in the cafeteria in the morning. Will be judged from seniors from the Quadrangle.
- j. Pancake breakfast - December 3rd, time TBD. Teachers will be available to serve, there will be no basketball game. Have about 40 volunteers. Working on permits. Will have pointsettia sale.
- k. Service clubs - 3rd/4th/5th grade have been started. Announcements for meetings can be given to Mr. Marsella.
- l. School spirit sales - Will sell at pancake breakfast.
- m. IntraDistrict Council - Communication of schools in district. Larry Feinberg is liaison between school board and district. School board meetings can be seen on demand. Dec 1st new board members will be sworn in.
- n. Treasurer's report - \$21,500 budget/year
Sign up at Target online, and every time you use the card, the school gets a percentage of your purchases. Giant has a similar program, paperwork will be filled out to allow parents to participate there as well. If you need check reimbursement, see Patty Mefford.

5. Haverford School District Education Foundation School Empowerment Grant information and committee formation

A \$10,000 grant is available. A committee consisting of 2 teachers, 2 parents, and Mr. Marsella needs to be formed. The deadline is January 1, 2012. The request needs to be curriculum based, innovative, with a cohesive theme.

6. General information/Updates/Requests

7. Questions/remarks from attendees

Bulldog browser available? - Will be sent home soon.

Addendum for food allergies list available soon? Mr. Marsella to follow up on.