

Clifford School Parent Teacher Organization
General Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2012

- I. Meeting called to order at 7: 14 PM by Tia Knuedler.
- II. Introduction: Executive Board introduced. PTO Meetings to be held at 7PM on the second Thursday of each month, exceptions are February 7th and June 6th (possibly at offsite location).
- III. Principal's Report: Jammie Behrendt, our new principal, introduced herself and outlined her early activities for getting the year off to a good start. First, she encouraged parents to complete the survey (regarding the climate and culture of the school) by the end of September. To get to know the students and teaching methods being used, she regularly walks through the classrooms. Her first priority is for a safe and positive learning environment. During lunch recess, zones around the school grounds have been designated for the various grades, separating the 7th and 8th graders from the 5th and 6th. Tables, awnings, sports containers, and possibly a bridge in the upper field area are being considered. They are implementing more explicit discipline guidelines. Parent/Student Handbooks and Locker Use Agreements are tools that will be used to clarify expectations. The "open" campus is being reviewed. Additional fencing may be installed. Changes are being implemented (information on these changes will be sent home soon).
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Heather Maire reported on the budget with questions raised on the \$40K expenditure for a middle school prep period. The plan for a middle school Explorative was explained. Direct Campaign has brought in \$23K YTD of the \$50K projected for the year.
- V. Secretary's Report: Minutes from the May 17th PTO were approved.
- VI. Fundraising Report: 3 in 1 (gifts, wrapping paper, cookie dough) fundraiser being defined. Changes are being made to the prize qualifications for student sales.

- VII. Volunteer Report: Pamela Martin is coordinating the volunteers. We still need an Art in Action Coordinator. Maria Stockton shared information of docent training.
- VIII. Communications Report. Aoife McEvoy is looking for volunteers for the newsletter and Spanish translation opportunities. Reminded people to sign up for e-mail blasts and texting to stay connected. She still has copies of the "Survival Guide" available.
- IX. Events Report: Plan to have a Come Out and Play Night and Movie Night this fall.
- X. Enrichment Report: Tia Knuedler reminded people to sign-up for enrichment classes, packets available in the office. Tae Kwan Do classes for the fall have been cancelled.
- XI. Middle School Liaison Report: Valerie Bioc is checking with the teachers to find out the needs. Events (have been minimal in the past) will need parent volunteers. Tia commented that Power School is an on-line tool that the school is hoping to have fully implemented this year for obtaining Middle School information (including; grades, homework, and attendance, announcements). Also, regular teacher/parent/administration forums are planned, but the frequency has not been determined.
- XII. New Business: PTO has an office by the front railings and will be open in the mornings and afternoons. Clifford API scores increased 19 points, from 803 to 822.
- XIII. Open Discussion: Laura Bauer announced Clifford Wear Sale (\$10 off purchases of \$50 or more).
- XIV. Raffle winners: Kim Faust and Valerie Bioc.
- XV. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM