

## Clifford School Parent Teacher Organization

### General Meeting

May 9, 2013

- I. Christina Sullivan called meeting to order at 7:09. Attendance: See attached sign-in sheet, 23 people were in attendance. Amy Stanbery provided dinner for attendees.
- II. Principal's Report: Jammie Behrendt requested that PTO fund half the salary (\$26,110.75) of the Exploratory Class teacher (Jessica Schifrin), with the district funding the remaining half, for the 2013-2014 school year. The executive board discussed the proposal and recommends that the PTO provide the funds for one more year but that long term funding needs to be obtained. Amy O'Toole asked if we would still be able to fund our other programs and was told that there is a cushion so that all current programs can still be funded. Niki Kolokithas motioned that we approve the \$26, 110.75 expenditure request for the of an Exploratory Class teacher. Valerie Bioc seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- III. Shannon Cody thanked the PTO for all the special meals and treats during Teacher Appreciation Week. Then introduced Shelly Masur, School Board President, and congratulated her on being named one of Silicon Valley's 100 Most Influential Women. On behalf of Clifford, she thanked Shelly for doing so much for the community and our kids.
- IV. Shelly Masur's Message: 1) The school board is updating their goals and has adopted a sustainability plan; that includes, solar panels at some schools (Clifford being one of those), lower energy use light bulbs, replace towels with hand dryers in the bathrooms, replacing motors, and changing method for filling tires. The work will begin soon and will be nearly completed by fall. They also plan to upgrade technology at the school sites. Wi-Fi will be available. 2) As far as the budget for next year, they are still waiting on the state. She is hopeful that there will be no budget cuts for next year. A question was asked as to how the Redwood City School District compares to other districts on dollars/student. Redwood City spends \$7000/student in comparison to Woodside, which spends \$18,000/student. 3) In a district wide survey, parents and students were fairly happy but teachers were not as satisfied. While the district has no money for raises, they plan to emphasize recognition, retention, and

recruitment. 4) The board is also exploring facility needs. The building of housing units in Redwood City will result in a growth of student numbers. There will probably be a need for another school. 5) Common Core Standards for K-12 are being adopted by a majority of the states, California being one of them. The standards that we are currently teaching to will be changing in an effort to prepare students for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

- V. Secretary's Report: The minutes from the April PTO meeting were circulated. Niki Kolokithis motioned to approve the April Minutes, Carol Donnelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VI. The slate of 2013-2014 PTO board members was distributed (see attached handout). Bunnie Morrow motioned that we approve the new board members and Niki Kolokithas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- VII. Art-in-Action: It was proposed that we budget \$4000 for licensing and materials for the 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade art-in-action program (school year 2013-2014). Katherine Schembri motioned that we approve the proposal and Valerie Bioc seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. It was also noted as to the terrific job Jennifer Fernandez is doing with the program, she has donated time and money to organize the supplies for us. Thank you Jennifer.
- VIII. Kiln Repair: Clifford's kiln is broken and the estimate for the repairs is \$200. The executive board is proposing that we approve the kiln's repair up to a cost of \$350. Valerie Bioc motioned that we approve the repair for up to \$350 and Paul Haas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IX. Treasurer's Report: 1) The Father Daughter Dance made a profit of \$914. 2) The Moms and Margaritas event was generously hosted by Carol Donnelly. No financial information is available yet. 3) The Direct Campaign is still under budget. Letters went out in the student folders thanking the families who donated and reminding families who haven't donated yet to participate. 4) Remember to register merchant and credit cards to receive e-scrip funds.
- X. Lap-a-thon: Katherine Schembri reported on the lap-a-thon scheduled for Friday, May 17. A raffle for some great prizes is planned to encourage students to get pledges. All the prizes

have been donated so there is very little cost associated with the event. The goal is to make \$20K, last year it brought in \$14K. There is a concerted effort to get middle school more involved in bringing in pledges.

- XI. Update of Past Events: 1) The Kindergarten's May Day baskets were delivered to Clifford's neighbors (thank you to Julianne Lindars and Aoife McEvoy). Pictures can be viewed on the PTO website. 2) Anjanette Lundell coordinated the meals for the teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. Special thanks to all who donated, including then Harrisons who brought Lasagna from the Canyon Inn and Cecilia Velazquez and Josee Stonge who made enchiladas.
- XII. Clifford Open House: Grades 2 through 8 will have their Open House on May 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the classrooms, visitors can see the Spring Art Show in the MUB and participate in the Spring Raffle occurring in the library. The week of the Open House, people can visit the school library to view the raffle items.
- XIII. Upcoming Events: 1) Multicultural Festival is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>. The passport portion of the event is being eliminated for this year because it stretches our volunteer resources too thin. 2) Valerie Bioc is planning a middle school event scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> on the upper field. There will be cookies, music, games, and beach balls. Volunteers are needed. 3) 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at PCC followed by a dance at the MUB. 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents will be the chaperones (chaperones will be needed from 7:30 to 10:00).
- XIV. Frog Habitat Update: As an additional fundraiser, Lorraine Akemann proposed selling small plaques that would be placed along the decking or fencing. The income would be used to maintain the habitat.
- XV. The final 2012-2013 PTO meeting will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> at Canyon Inn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.