

PTO General Meeting - 09/15/2016

Thursday, Sept. 15th 2016, 7pm – Clifford Library

After signing in, socializing, and enjoying the delicious food offered by the hospitality committee, Katherine Schembri called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

A.Katherine welcomed everyone to the PTO meeting and gave a short explanation of Roberts Rules, how PTO works, how we vote in budgets, and what the PTO supports. The 2016-17 budget was voted on in May 2016. There are 2 amendments that are being voted on tonight. The programs supported by the PTO include: PE (TK-5), Art-in-action (1-5), field trips, 8th grade graduation, 5th and 7th outdoor education, teachers' classroom supplies, school garden, the school play; many things. Some events are fundraisers, some are community builders. The PTO is always happy to have more people get involved.

B.Roy Dorling gave the Treasurer's Report. Jackie Smith is our treasurer, but Roy is also a finance person and usually does the presenting. The P&L from last year shows a net income of about \$7k, which was a lot better than the budget, which projected a loss of \$30k. Our cash balance is about \$166k. Our spending to support Clifford's programs and services is about \$130k.

The budget approved in May projected income of about \$125k, which Roy thinks is conservative, esp as we are doing an auction for the second year in a row. With expenses, we are budgeting for a loss of \$15k on the year.

The new proposed spending is for:

2 chrome carts with chrome books (32 chrome books each, so 64 total) for \$24000

Donation to Measure U in the amount of \$5000

There will be more discussion before we vote, later in the meeting.

Question - is the PTO budget viewable online? Answer: No; a print out is brought to PTO meetings; PTO is working on making the budget viewable online.

C.Katherine remembered Aoife McAvoy as a fantastic supporter of Clifford and the PTO. An art fund has been created in her memory and has about \$3600. This fund will be used to augment Clifford's art program, specifics still to be determined.

D.Site Council. Michelle Mairani, K teacher, introduced herself. Michelle is president of the Site Council, Kimberley Calderaro is the vice president, Cherril Roth is the recording secretary. The classified member is Patti Barron. Roy Dorling and Heather Maire are parent reps. There are 3 interim parent site council positions open; elections will be held in January. The only meeting before the January elections will be on Tues Oct 25 from 3-4 p.m.

The Site Council develops and reviews the school site plan and accountability report card. You learn about funding, what's happening in the district, how many students and staff there are, etc. Meetings are usually on Tuesday afternoons from 3-4. Meetings are open to the public; you don't have to be on the site council to attend. If you are interested in becoming a parent rep, contact Michelle Mairani: mmairani@rcsdk8.net

E.Casino Night Auction

Trina Licht introduced herself. She is responsible for the auction, to be held Fri. Nov. 4th, at Sparky's garage in San Carlos. Trina recently emailed a signup sheet, she is looking for more volunteers. Ticket sales will start soon. Please contact Trina if you have any questions: trinalicht@gmail.com

F.Art in Action (1st-5th grades)

Rachel Winmill is making a big push to get more parents involved, please contact Rachel to sign up to lead or assist with art lessons. It would be great to have every grade have an art lesson once a month. Art in Action in Menlo Park offers training sessions that are fast, fun, and leave you feeling confident. The training sessions are not mandatory. There will be a few art shows throughout the year. The shows at Peet's have been fun in the past and featured free hot chocolate for all the artists. Shows will probably be in Nov. and Jan. Artwork will also be displayed in Redwood City libraries. Contact Rachel or Kay if you want to help run a show or hang artwork: wade_rachel@hotmail.com

G.Enrichment

Gail Blomstrom coordinates the after school enrichment program. Packets with the Fall offerings have been sent home. Middle School now has some new classes, including art, choir, Spanish, and chess. The choir teacher taught Music for Minors at Clifford last year. The choir is offered for grades 2-5 and 6-8 (separately), is reasonably priced, and the fee can be pro-rated if students cannot attend all sessions due to rehearsal conflicts. Gail thanked the teachers who let us use their classrooms for these programs.

H.) Measure U Phone Banking

Shannon Cody gave an update about Measure U. We are in the last year of funding from Measure W, which has been a source of \$115-120000 per year, each year to Clifford. Measure U will be on the November ballot for RCSD voters. If measure U doesn't pass, we will lose that income. The money Clifford would receive from Measure U can only be used by our site and cannot be used elsewhere or taken away.

What can we do to support Measure U? We can phone bank, precinct walk, endorse it. Members of the Clifford community will be phone banking on Oct. 3 and 4. There's a script to follow, its easy to do. Phone bankers are not trying to convince people or change minds, but to encourage supporters to vote on this measure on election day. There will also be some precinct walks to encourage voters to vote on the measure.

I. Directory Report

Katherine gave an update on the directory. If you choose to fill out a form, the information that you supply will be used in the directory; information will not be pulled in from any other sources. The goal is to collect all of the forms by Sep. 30 and produce the directory by Nov. 1. Sponsorships are welcome - please contact Katherine with any leads. And Katherine welcomes help from anyone who would like to work on creating the directory: kathandnora@aol.com

J. Volunteer Recruitment

Shabnam Moon has collected volunteer information from over 100 people! She is creating a database to keep track of all the people and their skills. We still need to find:

- Yearbook coordinator(s)
- Read-a-thon coordinator(s)
- Art-in-action volunteers
- Healthy Cities tutors

K. Direct Donation

Hannah Walbridge introduced herself and the direct donation program. The goal is to get all Clifford families to contribute any amount that works for their family, and ultimately to raise \$50k. There will be 3 asks: one in the Fall, one around the winter holidays, one in the Spring.

L. Hospitality

Anjanette Lundell and Liz Dyer are running the hospitality group. The Kinder playdate was very successful in its 3rd year, families from TK/K met for some playtime on the Saturday before the first day of school.

PTO Coffees will happen on the first Friday of the month (unless more people want to help put them on). These small socials are a fun way for parents/families/adults to get together in the morning right after drop off.

Staff appreciation happens throughout the year, usually with some treats in the teachers' lounge, every month or every other month, with a full appreciation week in the spring.

Liz and Arlene Little have been finding local businesses where we can do community events that will also fundraise for Clifford.

M. Room Representatives

Melisse Long is coordinating the room representatives this year. Room representative can be a shared position. Room reps attend PTO meetings and share information to the class (mostly through emails) to keep families informed. Reps also organize teacher gifts, class auction baskets, and help with classroom festivities. Melisse has a sign-up sheet, please get in touch w/her if you know you'd like to help out: melisselong@yahoo.com

N. Principal's Report – Field Trips- 8th grade, Monday morning announcements, Clifford CARES

Principal Josh Swerdlow was happy to see the great turnout at the PTO meeting, and noted that the first four weeks of school have been extremely smooth. He noted that the Mon. morning flag salutes have been a pleasant way to start the week, the teaching teams have been rotating through to make the announcements each week. Josh encouraged parents to stick around for the salute at drop-off on Mondays.

Josh also talked about the importance of Measure U funds (replacing outgoing Measure W). Among other uses, Measure W funds currently support Clifford's K-2 reading specialist, 3-5 reading specialist, and technology teacher.

On Friday, Sep 16, the 8th grade is going on a field trip to Foothill College for physics day.

Clifford CARES coupons are back, students can earn prizes if their coupon is pulled out of the raffle.

From the Middle school, there is positive feedback on the new electives being offered the last period of the day. 8th graders are surprised to find that infractions are earning them lunch detentions. The detention process has changed this year so the teachers can input names into the system and it generates a list for detention. This has helped with follow through of

detention this year.

O.Garden

Chris Artea has been leading the lower grades in gardening experiences. There are leftover teaching materials in the shed that are available for teachers or parents, the key is in the office. Chris willing to work with anyone to coordinate upper grades garden usage.

P.ELAC – Maria O.

Maria Orozco leads the ELAC program for English learners and their families, with the goal to help the students get reclassified and be successful at school.

Q.Budget Amendment Proposals

1.Purchase 2 Chrome Carts & Chrome Books – \$24,000

Roy Dorling pitched that Clifford is behind other RCSD schools in technology in terms of devices per student. To help catch up, the PTO will purchase 1 chrome cart (32 chrome books) for the middle school and 1 chrome cart (32 chrome books) for 4th/5th grade.

Niki Kolokithis made a motion to approve the purchase, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

2.Donate \$5,000 to RWC Community for Better Schools Committee/Measure U

Roy noted that Measure U needs 2/3 voter approval to pass, it is really important to make supporters aware of their need to vote Yes on this measure. The PTO Executive board supports PTO giving money to the Measure U campaign.

Trina Licht made a motion to approve the funding, it was seconded and passed unanimously.

R.New Business

1.Tia Knuedler promoted Clifford Family Movie Night, coming up on Fri Sep 30. Zootopia will be showing in the MUB, there's a \$5 suggested donation/family, and food and drinks will be available for purchase. The funds will go to support 8th grade graduation activities. Note: this is not a drop-off event.

2.Auditions for Alice in Wonderland, Jr will be happening on October 3-5. Students (grades 3-8) who want to audition need to sign up in advance. The performances will be Feb. 10-12, 2017. Flyers went home this week to promote the show.

3.Katherine invited everyone to be part of the PTO. Everyone plays a major, important part - this is *our* school. Please invite people to come to PTO events and be part of this amazing community.

4.Roy proposed that the PTO formally endorse Measure U, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The PTO meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. Next month's PTO meeting will be on Thu, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. in the library. Minutes recorded by Missy Damon.