

**** These minutes will be voted on for approval at the next PTO meeting. ****

March 2018 - PTO General Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 2018

A.) Attendance Sign in, Food, Social, Fliers

B.) Welcome & Communications Report - Sarah La Torra, sarahlatorra@yahoo.com
Some parents have expressed that they would appreciate more advance warning about minimum days and vacation days. The PTO will help make an effort to communicate this information better.

Chrome Books - There is an opportunity to buy 70 new Chrome Books from North Star since they purchased too many by mistake. Our PTO had already allocated \$12,000 towards Chrome Books. If our goal is to be 1-1 for 3-8 grade, then we need more and we need a comprehensive plan to commit to purchasing new ones every few years so that they remain current. We need to review the status of the current Chrome Book inventory and create a plan moving forward.

The library hadn't used the entirety of its \$2,000 budget for the year, so the School District Librarian for RCSD has helped to select books to fill in gaps in our collection.

C.) Secretary - Lisa Silberman, lmasilberman@gmail.com
Lisa made a motion to approve the February minutes; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

D.) Treasurer's Report - Jackie Smith & Roy Dorling, rrdorling@hotmail.com & treasurer@cliffordpto.org

Principal Crane would like to buy a scanner for the school. We will use the IT budget line for this item. We will work with the principal to create a budget for next year.

E.) Yearbook Update - Liz Mager e2mager@gmail.com
If you have photos of field trips or dances, please send them along. TK-5 pictures are really needed. You can upload them directly to Tree Ring. Please contact Liz for more info.

F.) Science at RCSD - Brian Flaig - bflaig@rcsdK8.net
Brian is a science coach for the entire district helping with general curriculum to specific lessons. He spoke about science at Clifford and other schools in the district and explained that the new approach to teaching science has shifted from a lecture format to a student-centered smaller group format. Several parents voiced concerns about whether the Clifford students were "high school ready" for science in particular. One parent indicated that her older children were struggling on entry to high school because they had been ill-prepared in her opinion. This was discussed at

length with the group and Brian explained that we were still transitioning from the old curriculum to the new.

Brian emphasized the importance of *experiences over experts* which is the current model that the PTO funds with a group called Science From Scientists. He also spoke about the new Maker Space that John Gill is creating at their school. Parents indicated their desire to have a Maker Space and hands-on project-based science learning in the classroom at Clifford. Some parents expressed frustration with regards to understanding why all of this is not happening at Clifford yet. Brian indicated that he was just there to share ideas, but did not have any funding to make these things happen. It was suggested that we have some sort of broader communication channel and plan to share these ideas among schools in the district.

As we plan our budget for next year, we will look at the science programs critically to see if they are meeting the needs of the school

G.) Principal's Report - Jude Noyes (Vice Principal) - jnoyes@rcsdk8.net
Jude indicated that things are going really well in the middle school and that a lot of improvements have been made.

H.) Site Council - Dione Smith - dsmith@rcsdk8.net
The Site Council for Clifford needs three new parents for the next calendar year to participate. The time commitment is relatively small - just 1-1/2 hours per month on average. You can even join the meetings via video conference! The site council will give you a much broader picture of how Clifford operates. You get to help decide how money is spent that is allocated by the District. Please let Ms. Mairani know if you are interested in participating--mairani@rcsdk8.net .

I.) ELAC - Maria Orozco - morozco@rcsdk8.net
They had a meeting recently to discuss LCAP testing.

J.) Scholastic Book Sale - Victoria Defouw - vdefouw@rcsdk8.net
The book fair is all set up and will be open Monday-Friday from 7:45-8:15 before school and after school.

J.) Movie Night - Leana Litchfield - Mrsshruubber@gmail.com, Susan Leathers - susan.leathers@comcast.net
Coco will be shown this year on Friday, April 20th from 6-7:30pm. \$5 per family. Pizza, popcorn and drinks will be available for sale.

K.) Middle School Update - Katherine Schembri - kathandnora@aol.com
The 5th graders will be away at Outdoor Ed from March 19-23rd. Katherine strongly encourages parents to attend in future years when they get the opportunity. An 8th grade fundraiser is coming (Movie Night). Graduation will be at Canada.

L.) RCEF Fundraising Breakfast - Shabnam Moon - shabnam.moon@gmail.com

Shabnam reported on the breakfast which she attended last month. She explained that they highlighted what a Redwood City education can be and how RCEF is working to fill in the gaps. They raised 225k at the breakfast.

M.) *Reminder* about the Clifford Fall Auction 2018 - Trina Licht clj106@mac.com

Looking for committee members!

Boots 'n' Bling Fall Gala: The Wildest Auction in the West.

Save the date for September 29, 2018, Devil's Canyon

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26

Minutes recorded by Lisa Silberman (lmasilberman@gmail.com)