

# Clifford PTO Meeting Notes

4/22/2022

**Started at about 7:13PM**

## Attendance

Online: Robert Price (NUA), Jennifer Tanti, Jocelyn Rutenberg-Semke, Cary Wilder, Shabnam Moon

In Person: See Sign in sheet

## Welcome and Update

Thank you Jerry for getting the electronic sign up and running! We could use a volunteer that would like to help with this effort. Maybe we could have someone that is interested in updating weekly.

Making a big push for open PTO positions. We need help with fundraising. We are looking for someone who has accounting experience, challenge to track everything for the auction, etc.

Art in Action—our current volunteer has done this by herself. Lots of work in the beginning and then need to manage the supply. She will continue but she wants support. Train with an expert.

We could use a co-president or vice president.

Jude will send out the open positions to parents. Please email Jennifer if you are interested.

Will do an auction recap in depth next month. Goal was to raise \$55K and we exceeded that by a lot! Our goal next year is \$75K. Will discuss Live/Silent auction, what worked well, etc. There are a few experiences left if you are interested. Every bit helps the PTO.

## National Urban Alliance (NUA)

- High critical thinking skills
- Started in 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> to started in the school and now it has expanded to the whole
- Engages students by teaching equity, building community in a really thoughtful way. All have an equal voice. When they have chances to process information, they are more successful
- Priming processing and retaining for understand. Methods of getting kids involved via community, and facts
- Use thinking maps, etc. Kids learn to choose what they think will best impact their own learning. Tools of inquiry.
- Vertical alignment so students have the best tools to make them the most successful. All walk with gifts, if we can rise with those that is what is more important
- Not a curriculum, gives power to the student to be accountable and own their own learning and vested in what they are learning. This program is a lens for how to think about learning. Gives a voice to everyone. Everyone's contribution to the lesson is valuable and matters. Has become a catalyst for differentiation and for giving everyone a voice.
- Would like to do a parent NUA training

## Secretary

Minutes will be shared next month

## Middle School Update

- Question: have it on our radar to help with testing in May. Need additional details about snacks. Kathrine will send the sign-up Genius she used last year so it can be duplicated (snacks during testing are a great way to help the kids stay focused)
- Dates for SBAC: 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks in May—will get the rest of the details
- Planning for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation events (brunch, Great America, a dance, graduation, hike, etc). Want the cost to not be a barrier for any student to attend. Will solicit volunteers for the events. All events are on the PTO calendar.
  - **Grad Dance** June 3rd 6:00-8:00 (a dance for just the 8th graders) in the MUB
  - **Great America Trip** June 6th 9:00-5:00 (Leave at 9 and return to Clifford by 6)
  - **Picnic/BBQ at Stafford Park** June 7th 11:00-3:00
  - **Graduation** June 8th 6PM-7PM At the Sequoia High School Gym
  - **8th Grade Brunch** June 9th 9:00-11:00 in the MUB

## Budget Discussion

- A few things of note—Middle School PE is now funded by the district, no longer need to pay 50%, bumped up money for 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities, increased money for the yearbook, increased teacher stipends up to \$300
- Increased expected income to the Auction due to successful past years
- Healthy Cities tutoring funding is being increased; they asked us to raise it over the next couple of years.
- Added funds to the play because of fluctuations over the past few years with the cost of venues, etc.
- Added money to Emergency Relief to help families in need with gift cards, etc.
- Added money to Dolphin Depot for prizes kids earn based on being good citizens in the classroom, etc.
- Added money for Family Nights -- \$10K

## Treasurer's Report

- Connie submitted some receipt
- School Play in the hole about \$4600
- Teacher Stipends are up to \$2600
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities, park reserved, graduation reserved for Sequoia HS
- District often lags with reconciliation for our budgets, we give them money and they take money from the line items. Hoping by the next meeting we have a better understanding of the total expenses for the year

## Principal Report

- Hiring: 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math/Science, a very good candidate, currently checking her references
- Hiring 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher, great candidate, wrote an advanced math curriculum, taught algebra, etc. checking references

- An additional SDC class in the middle school—very experienced educator, currently works for the County, signed his contract. Jonathan Honeymoon
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Ms. Fowle is teaching abroad, taking a leave of absence, Brittney Ward coming from Hoover, currently teaching 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- K: Erica Metro coming from Hoover to teacher Kinder, very excited to have her, has been part of the SEAL training cohort
- TK Teacher Lauren Teapang is moving to the K
- Why no TK? No TK next year because the district wants to have a bathroom in all the TK rooms. Can have TK next year.
- Need to bring something to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Camp Mendocino
- Middle School wants to dance—Alice in Wonderland Theme, will be in the MUB
- DJ and photo booth for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, May 6<sup>th</sup> 6pm-8p
- Makerspace—Rachel Peters will start up the Makerspace, will be in the computer lab (connected to the library), has stipends set aside for teachers to be in the space at lunch
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation will be at Sequoia
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade would like a commencement of some sort
- Kindergarten playground, removed, it got started, 3 Weeks

## Move-A-Thon

- Last year we made about \$30,000 Net, we hope to raise approximately \$25,000 this year. The event will take place on May 25<sup>th</sup>, all students will participate in the Move-a-Thon. PE+ is willing to participate. The Sheriff's department plans to be there as well as a few school board members.
- We'll have obstacle courses, a dance party, hula hoops, jump ropes and more
- Volunteers are welcome
- Kids will receive popsicles at the end of their session.
- Discussion around equity issues of the move-a-thon--Sarah needs ideas soon if we want to incorporate
- A few ideas included: raffle prizes for anyone who shares info with their parents, raffle prizes for all on the day of the move-a-thon

## Project Cornerstone

Middle school is engaging on the topics of sharing power and leadership and time management and goal setting (SMART goals)

## Staff Appreciation

Suggested adding money to the budget for the coffee cart

Teacher Appreciation: will do the first week of May, looking for volunteers, might create a sign-up genius and send things to room reps

## New Business

N/A