

CMS PTO Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015

Board Members In attendance:

Lisa Morgan ~ Co-President
Murial Lin ~ Co-President
Heidi Short ~ Secretary
Stacy Meheen ~ Co-Treasurer
Kristen Hunter ~ Co-Treasurer
Kath Uyeda ~ Website
Michelle Lauren Kahn ~ Volunteers
Ken Griest ~ Principal

General Members: Rosaleen Ryan Trambley, Cindy Schroeder, Aline Armstrong, Merrie Potter, Susan Abrahams, Rita Patel, Tamera Meckel

Welcome – Meeting called to order at 1:35 pm.

Approval of December 2014 Meeting Minutes—**All Approved**

Treasurer's Report:

Biggest expenditure was for \$4000 for campus water fountains. The expense for the Honor's Breakfasts was twice as much as was budgeted for, but was expected, and was pre-approved. The overage was due to the fact that we added gift cards for all honors students, in addition to the breakfast. We still have a healthy bank account balance.

Serve-a-Thon: Cindy Schroeder

This year we had higher participation rates than previous years. Traditionally, we have seen a high participation rate among 6th graders, a little less among 7th graders, and a big drop-off in 8th grade participation. However, this year's 8th grade class did not drop off in participation as it has in previous years; which was great! Overall, 66% of the CMS student body (out of 587 students) participated which was great -

6th Grade – 74% participation

7th Grade – 64 % participation

8th Grade – 62% of participation

Please see attached report for additional information.

Despite a good participation rate, overall we made less money than last year, because we have fewer students enrolled in the CMS this year.

Search for Serve-a-thon Chairs

Cindy and Murial Lin will not be chairing this committee next year. Ideally we are looking for a minimum of two new people to step up – ideally a 6th and 7th grade parent, who can do it for a minimum of two years. Duties include:

- Someone to take charge of numbers (accounting)
- Someone to get raffle prizes
- Someone to schedule the events/days (Jamba, Taco lunch, etc.)
- Someone to take care of Service Day

Let's think of some good candidates and recruit people who have shown an interest in volunteering. The current chairs Murial Lin and Cindy Schroeder will send Ken Griest a list of potential candidates for him to chat with.

Approve PTO By-Laws – Michelle Lauren Kahn

They are on the PTO Website for anyone to see. Kath Uyeda made some changes to keep consistency with what is mentioned and what exists in reality.

- Replace Habitat Coordinator with ME Earth rep (one position only)
- Need to remove language determining how many years executive officers can serve; depends on how many people are stepping up and whether a parent has multiple kids in school
- Remove specific day of week that the PTO should meet (first Wednesday of the month) to 'PTO Shall meet monthly during the school year'
- Anyone (not just the Exec Board) is able to make a motion to approve or disapprove an item

Motion to approve Bylaws with changes mentioned—**All Approved**

Principal's Report

New Water Fountains have been ordered and will be installed as soon as we receive them.

Friday we have a special schedule for **Not in Our School**—an ongoing program to address bullying. Students take a little more of a leadership role; taking the anti-bullying message directly to the kids. Friday begins with a video; then there are questions that are addressed in the class and then a speaker at lunch as well as activities at lunch talking about how we treat each other; trying to get the kids to be UPstanders vs. Bystanders when they witness bullying behavior.

Twice a year we do a survey with the kids regarding **Climate and Culture**; December and late May. Kids are given an anonymous survey and answer questions like the following

- I feel safe on campus
- I feel included
- At least one adult cares for me at CMS
- I'm treated w/ respect
- I've been bullied/harassed at CMS, etc

66% said they have never been bullied or harassed. The survey is anonymous because we think we get better/more honest responses; however, wouldn't it be nice to be able to follow up with the 2% of kids who say they do not feel safe, or have been bullied? Can we put something on this anonymous survey that lets the kids who do feel threatened to be able to go to a counselor and get further help? Some sort of follow-up. Do you know where to go to help? TBC...

A new questions this year: How many times have you been offered drugs on campus? 91% said never, but a small percent said once or twice.

In general, our students over the past three years are showing dramatic changes due to the education they have been getting since elementary school about the dangers of drugs/alcohol and the tools they have been given to be able to resist temptation/peer pressure. We like this trend. ☺

Ways and Means:

Miss Liu – Chinese New Year Celebration – asking for \$500. The entire student body enjoys this fun activity – **All Approved**

Misc:

Becky Reisdorf will be chairing the Chili Dinner for Open House – May 5, 2015. Next meeting we will discuss this further.

Next school dance is January 23; Because the last dance was so expensive (\$10/admission – proceeds to CMS Band) should we make this dance free of charge for entry? Kids would pay for food, photo booth, face painter, etc. –**All Approved**

Meeting Adjourned 2:30; Next PTO Meeting is scheduled for Weds., February 4, 2015 at 1:30.