

**Neil Cummins PTA Executive Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 7, 2008**  
**8:20-10:20 am**  
**NC Conference Room**

**Attendees:** Cathie Guthrie, President; Julia Ritter, Executive Vice-President; Karen Bond, Vice President; Sarah Notter, Vice President; Jamie Bueman, Vice President; Erin Langs, Vice President; Susan Christman, Secretary; Ann Trunko, Treasurer; Debbie Arnowitz, Financial Secretary; Monica Malone, Parliamentarian; Mary Creigh Houts, Teacher Representative; Marilyn Clark, Principal; Michelle Walker, Vice Principal

**Call to Order:** Julia Ritter called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

**Principal's Report:** (Marilyn Clark) Facilities Update. There are an additional 40 students this year as compared to last year and two portables have been added. The Facilities Committee Plan includes a consideration for an upper and lower campus as well as an update of existing facilities. This will hopefully open up opportunities to have smaller learning environments here at Neil Cummins. The plan will include improvements at both campuses. A community meeting is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the NC Gym.

**Vice Principal's Report:** (Michelle Walker) Michelle reported that if Teachers are asking for funding that it first go through Marilyn and Michelle. She thanked us for the playground equipment and she has found a location for a shed to house the equipment. Michelle will look into pricing out a shed. She will check into "rumors" that the PTA shed at Hall MS may be moving. Additionally, she will look into the status of the \$40 School Supply fund collection. She is concerned that the District may be in the red over the funding. Discussion was held regarding a lack of communication with the community as to why the funds are needed for the school supplies and clarification is needed to let everyone know that it is the administration who is making the request.

**Teacher Representative Report** (Mary Creigh. Houts)

Mary Creigh said that the teachers sincerely thanked us for the \$550 checks for their classrooms. Cathie asked that the teachers consider collecting their Kleenex boxes for Box Tops for Education. Mary Creigh will poll the teachers on the upkeep of their art boxes.

**Treasurer's Report** (Ann Trunko)

Currents Assets are \$36,000. Accounts receivables are \$91,000 from Good Earth. We have taken in \$5,290 in memberships. Hoedown took in \$6,200 however there are still some receipts coming in. Ann stressed that we need to budget our events for next year e.g., Hoedown, Welcome Coffee.

**CMLSF Report** (Karen Bond, Erin Langs)

9/22 meeting focused on Golf Tournament, Fidelity Speaker who will speak at Hall. Librarian thanked Foundation for the new Computer System. 10/6 meeting, Foundation decided that they will not fund the Harvest Dance due to anticipated lower income (due to the economy).

Greenraising was discussed and the fact that there was lower intake for this fundraiser. They are willing to contribute the Holiday Wreath Sales to Outdoor Ed and let the PTA do that fundraiser.

**VP Fundraising:** (Carolyn Caindec)

Outdoor Education Fundraising -Carolyn said that we netted \$4,000 in the Greenraising fundraiser and our goal is \$5,000. Carolyn thought that the fact that the Sigg Water Bottles were not available may have been part of the problem. The Greenraising folks will extend the 40% sale for another 2 weeks. Cathie talked about the discussion last year with Hall PTA over the Outdoor Ed shortfall in anticipation of a shortfall. The Foundation seems to be open to supplementing the shortfall. It is also a matter of asking the parents to contribute more per child. A suggestion was made to have a meeting with the PTA at Hall and NC and the Foundation regarding the program.

Spirit Wear has a new order coming in. They have sold approximately \$350 in gear to date.

**Approval Items**

**VP 2 Operations:** Erin Langs. Motion was made to vote in Erin Langs as our VP2 Operations by Sarah Notter, Carolyn seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous and motion carried. Monica made a motion and Karen seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of 8/28/08 last meeting. Motion carried.

Harvest Dance Request (Ann Brown)-as per Cathie, we have a lot of events and there is a concern over how many volunteers can be recruited, and how many families can attend. Suggestion is to combine the Harvest Dance with the Hoedown.

Request for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Dance Program funding from Teagan McGinnis (Julia): Motion was made to approve \$1,000 for the dance program by Monica, Jamie seconded, motion carried.

Request for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Jazzercise funding (\$500): not discussed.

**Discussion Items**

Hoedown Report (Bueman)- the Hoedown was a great success. Jamie spent less money this year than last. The proceeds from the dessert auction will go to the Hawk Dads for the Friday Fun Nights. Michelle has some receipts to turn in. Sarah requested that we find a way to donate the leftover food to a food bank. Susan will give Michelle the information.

Group Swim (Deb Blum)- there is a new opportunity for internet information sharing that has been developed by a K parent called GroupSwim. GroupSwim is a Web based 2.0 program. It is a knowledge sharing space that is one step above a BLOG with secured access. This program allows: teachers to have one central location for accessing school documents, private billboards, conversations among parents, and a web based location to post all historical PTA documents, etc. It is another opportunity for our school to go paperless. This is a service that is being offered to our school for \$50 per month as compared to market rate at \$4,000 per month. Its success is dependent on the number of people accessing it. It would allow teachers, administrators and parents to upload documents securely in a separate "space". It can feed questions and have

universal answers to assist parents. Risks are that people can post information that is wrong, or that could be unkind. Proposal is that the PTA Board runs a test group. Cathie sees a great value in having a central location for PTA documents, parents to share documents (eg., Room Parent party signups). Marilyn said that they are currently using a web 2.0 program called Airsoft here at NC. We discussed the fact that Hall has programs up and running such as Power School. Deb is going to provide an overview of what the District is using district wide and meet with webmaster, Kim Murray and report back to us.

Lunch Update (Guthrie)-volunteers are up and running. We are serving over 1,500 hot lunches to 518 kids which include 55 free and reduced lunches. Auditors are returning this Wednesday to close out the review from last spring.

Pink Section (Trunko)-we voted to rename the Pink section the "Hawk Squawk".

Adjournment-Julia adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Christman