

Phelps Luck Elementary School PTA

Executive Board Meeting

January 7, 2009

Call to Order: 7:15pm

Attendance – 18 people signed the attendance form.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes from the September 3, November and December meetings were approved by consent.

PLES Charge for PTA Copies – Maryann Cohea (President)

- Due to the economy and budget cuts, Administration is requesting the PTA pay for using the school's copier and paper. Mrs. Akers asked for \$400 for this year's usage. The amount was based on charging 2 cents per copy.
- Since we didn't budget for it, Paul Pechacek said we could take the \$400 out of the Grade Special budget. We will budget for it next year.
- A general vote was taken whether to use the school's copier and paper. An overwhelming majority was in favor. A formal vote was taken with 6 voting in favor.
- Other suggestions included buying our own copier, and paying for using the school's copier but buying our own paper. Jerry Sapp looked into buying our own copier and reported that it would cost in the mid \$500 for one that would make up to 8,000 copies per month, plus there would be maintenance and paper costs.
- We would continue to look for ways to conserve paper in the future, including giving families a choice between hardcopy or electronic copy, and making copies just for youngest/only child.

President's Report – Maryann Cohea (President)

- A nominating committee for upcoming elections should be in place by the April meeting, which will be held on March 25 due to Spring Break and the Science Fair. This year, only Liz Beachum can return to her position as Secretary if re-elected. All other officers must step down because there is a 2 year limit an officer can serve in the same position.
- Maryann gave an update on the discrimination complaints filed against the PTA last year. She has been in contact with the Howard County PTA and Maryland PTA. Hopefully, a decision will be made in January.
- Gianni's Pizza and Dessert Fundraiser was kicked off today. Order forms were sent home today in each child's Wednesday folder. Orders are due by Jan 21. Items must be picked up on Friday, Jan 30 between 3:30 and 6:00 pm.
- Maryann congratulated Secret Shop Chair Karen DeBlasio and Dine-Out Night Chair Cheryl vom Saal for their amazing jobs in organizing their events. Secret Shop ran very smoothly, and placing the older children and the younger children in separate locations worked very well. Cheryl reported that we took in over \$500 from B&N purchases plus \$100 for wrapping purchases.
- Karen Stark asked for volunteers to help with the Vision and Hearing Screening that will take place next Monday and Tuesday between 9:00-11:30 am and 12:30-3:00 pm. Kindergarten and First Grade will be screened.

Administrator's Report – Mrs. Akers and Mrs. Leader

- Mrs. Akers presented the parent survey results from the Fall Parent/Teacher Conference; there were 174 responses; the total percentages of parents that either strongly agreed or agreed in each category are:
 - Feel welcomed – 98.25%
 - Satisfied with child's education – 96.49%
 - Feels school is safe – 93.53%
 - Feels staff cares about their child – 96.49%

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- Informed about child's strengths and needs – 99.42%
- Given strategies to help child at home – 96.79%
- Knows how to contact teacher – 98.20%
- Knows what their child is learning in math and reading – 98.78%
- Homework without Hassles - Mon, Jan 12, 6:30-8:00 pm, all parents are invited
- Mrs. Akers handed out the new school profile for PLES.
- Security cameras have been added for visibility of the front hallway and access to portables. Entry into the school via the side doors and back doors requires a card swipe.
- Inauguration Day ceremony (Jan 20) will be shown at school; all students will have the opportunity to watch; everyone will be asked to wear red, white and blue that day; students will learn about topics related to the presidency
- After School and Saturday School started again this week after the holidays; there are 100 students in After School and 60 in Saturday School.
- Important Dates
 - Fri, Jan 23 – End of quarter, 3 hour early dismissal
 - Mon, Jan 26 – Schools closed for students
 - Tues, Feb 3 – PLES 4th graders have been selected to participate in the NAEP, a national test give by the Dept of Ed. to assess what American students know for reading, math and science.
 - Wed, Feb 4 – Report cards will go home
 - Feb 25-27 – Parent/Teacher Conferences, parents will meet with math teacher(s)

Treasurer's Report – Paul Pechacek

- Total income – \$9,804.50; Total expenses - \$3,762.87; Ending ledger balance - \$10,472.63
- \$3000 of the unknown deposits is from the Book Fair; \$350 deposited from Eggspectation Dine-Out; \$560 deposited for Secret Shop (after 12/31); \$516 left in cash for Staff appreciation

Committee Reports

- Science Fair (Lisa Strutz) – Kickoff Assembly is Feb 2; Workshops are March 1-3, need volunteers. Meeting at Lisa's house on Jan 30; collected over 650 cans; asked Mrs. Akers for a 2-day homework pass for all participants.
- Dine-Out (Cheryl vom Saal) – Cheryl thanked all volunteers for the Barnes and Noble fundraiser, we raised around \$665 between gift wrap donations and sales from books; working on Dine-Out night at Café De Paris for Valentine's Day.
- International Festival (Karen Stark) – Feb 20 at Howard High School; Feb 19 during school hours the teachers will talk about places where they have lived or visited.
- Flowers (Polly Weber) – 50 bouquets were sold at the Winter Concert - (up 20 from the spring 2008 concert); we raised about \$100; will sell flowers during Spring Concert (June 4)
- Display My Art (Malinda Haggerty) – everything is set to go as planned; made close to \$1000 last year.
- Spring Family Celebration (Maryann for Carol Evans-Turner) – committee is meeting; event is May 1; no budget for it this year; will have a dance theme this year, but hopes to expand next year; interviewing DJs; will possibly separate the older grades from the younger grades which worked well at the Secret Shop.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:07pm