

Minutes: Sequoya APT- April 5, 2010

Meeting called to order by Karla Crall at 8:35am

Executive Members Present: Karla Crall, Lynne Herndon, Carla Monson, George Redheffer, Janna Everroad, Carrie Regan, Lee Ratterman, Christi Warner Beyer, Rose Fritzke, Debbie Wolvos
Others: Mrs. Bhavnani, Mrs. Weinman, Mrs. Taylor, Judy Hermanson, Padma Mallad, Lesli Beck, Nori Vial, Nancy Turell, Tracy Spooner, Patricia Koehler, Sharon Akin, Judy Doseck

I. Minutes

- A. Carrie Regan made a motion to approve the minutes. Lynne Herndon seconded.
Motion passed.

II. Treasurer's Report

- A. Lynne Herndon presented the treasurer's report. Looking at the P/L Budget vs. Actual Income Statement, all monies are in from the silent auction. We had budgeted 20,000, but took in 26,285, spending \$8,000. The profit was 18,000 vs. projected 12,000. Yearbook income has been recorded but expenses not paid yet. Some teacher monies are still to be spent. Overall we budgeted to have some deficit, but there's a good chance we'll finish up positive so that's great. On page 1, there are some funds available to spend. Mrs. Bhavnani was asked if there was something she'd like to spend the money on. Discussion was there'd be thought give to this and money would be spent in the fall. Re directory advertising, we took in \$1200 over budget. Re the budget for next year...in general, it will be similar to this year's actual. We will try to do better but this is good considering state of the economy. We're almost at break even, but Lynne thinks we can do better next year. There was a question re putting more money in areas where we have a deficit eg. W. Roundup. Lynne answered that the executive board wants this event to be break even. We can cover the deficit, but not in perpetuity. There is support for focusing any additional or available dollars on covering staffing issues in light of current district budget losses. Lynne says we do well on the donation drive and part of making that successful is doing something tangible on campus, eg. staffing and the rock wall in PE., while continuing to do a good job with community events. Carrie Regan asked what can be done with the money, more specifically, can we fund a nurse? Teachers?. The answer is not classified staff, but yes, teaching assistants, not certified. Lynne asked for motion to pass the budget. George Redheffer made a motion to pass the budget, Debbie Wolvos seconded, and the motion passed.

III. Principal's Report

- A. Mrs. Bhavnani commented on the importance of the Census and the 1% sales tax, Prop 100, passing. Mrs. Weinman said there had been a flag-raising earlier this morning, and with AIMS next week there's a focus on keeping the environment stress-free and on the children doing their best. Mrs. Bhavnani said there will be a celebration for the end of AIMS over lunch on Friday, April 30 with BBQ and DJ on the playground. Mrs. Bhavnani talked about planning for next year. We're in a wait and see spot right now and will know more after the 1% sales tax vote in May. She is thankful for the support of our APT keeping us from feeling the pain of other schools.

Last week one teacher per grade level attended a conference which was not funded by APT. Janna Everroad said we wouldn't want to interfere (keeping in mind confidentiality) but with so many retired certified parent teachers in our school, could we tap into them for help next year? Mrs. Bhavnani thought this was a great thought and something to keep in mind going forward. There was a question asking how the teachers might feel about this and Mrs. Taylor answered that they would need confidentiality and a true commitment to being present when scheduled.

- B. There was a question re next year's staffing. Mrs. Bhavnani and Mrs. Weinman said we've got a plan in place but they expect things to change. As of now, there will be 4-Kindergarten, 3-First, 4-Second, 3-Third, 4-Fourth, 3-Fifth grade classes. Re class sizes, the numbers can go higher and this comes from the district.
- C. Mrs. Bhavnani was asked where the TA's currently spend time? Reading and Math tutors work at every level. Second grade had a need so a second math assistant was hired for afternoons, and also helped K's. Re SPI, Mrs. Cohen has made a big difference and is going to talk to the students this week about keeping stress down through AIMS.

IV. Business

- A. Re the SPC (Scottsdale Parent Council) meeting, Rose reported that Harry Mitchell was present at the meeting talking about education on a national level. Dr. Catalani also talked. Rose reported on Race To The Top, a competitive grant the states put in for. SUSD put in for \$5 million, and didn't get it so reapplied to hear back in May. Lynne Herndon reported that the March meeting was all about the budget. They talked about what would happen via the May vote, and a November vote.
- B. Rose Fritzke reported that Site Council talked about the Census and the 1% temporary tax increase vote, and AIMS, and Annie, the latter scheduled for May 19 & 20. It's a big, wonderful production by Mr. Tarter, the chorus teacher. Next month, staff is to present the SIP plan analysis. Rose will be concluding her Site Council role and is looking for a replacement that could also be the liaison from APT. Lynne knows someone to take on this role.
- C. Rose Fritzke has researched replacing the "plus" signs on the front of the school as they have deteriorated. It will cost \$263.18 to replace them including matching the color. Lynne Herndon made a motion to approve spending the above amount to replace the "plus" signs. Pat Koehler seconded, and the motion passed.
- D. Christi Beyer reported that information on the new passive fundraiser, Doozy of a Deal, is going home today. The last school community event will be at NYPD on April 7th. Grocery e-scrip was discussed...we've received some monies from local stores but we're not getting from others. Christi will get with Lori Schneider to discuss.
- E. Janna detailed that flyers would be handed out at NYPD during the fundraiser. It was announced that Liz Bornstein will replace Janna Everroad next year as Community Events VP. Janna added that the clothing drive and donated mattresses were so appreciated by the families at our recipient schools.
- F. Debbie Wolvos & George Redheffer talked about Sequoya TV and a new idea that's come from brainstorming with parent, Steve Sanders. Sequoya TV is doing well and Mr. Harris is wonderful at the helm. They would like to form a committee with more parent help, improve the equipment (eg. mikes/light kit/repairing of cameras), and

expand the program to K-5 showcasing more of our kids and community. George feels it helps kids confidence to learn about reporting and work on Sequoia TV. There was support for some changes, but concern that a K-5 expansion might be too ambitious. It was suggested the expansion be smaller scale focusing on grades 4 & 5 with 5th grade mentoring 4th grade. They will take this information and put their ideas together to bring the proposal back next month.

- G. Carla Monson reported that all the grout is up completing this year's Artist in Residence project. The grout will not be sealed. Carla is putting together a book which will go in the library identifying which student and grade level did each tile. The Artist will be here at Art Walk. A grant paid for most of the project. Next year's grant is in and will focus on writing/storytelling. We'll hear in July whether the grant was awarded. Lisa Denton is co-chairing Art Walk and said they're still looking for set-up helpers on the 22nd from 5-7pm. Lee suggests checking on-line sign up lists for helpers. Rose suggests getting the info out in the Twigs.
- H. Lee Ratterman, VP of Technology is looking for help writing email blasts. She estimates the time commitment would be 30-40 minutes/week.
- I. Carrie Regan is looking for a replacement for her position as Recording Secretary next school year.
- J. Stephanie Kirke has snacks for AIMS under control. The end of year Staff Appreciation Lunch will be on Friday, May 7th. The theme is Summer Camp so anyone with ideas or willing to help should contact Stephanie.
- K. Young Author's Day (YAD) is scheduled for Friday, April 30. It's a wonderful school event needing many volunteers. Please sign up to host a small group.

V. Upcoming Events

- A. April 7, NYPD Fundraiser
- B. AIMS Testing April 12-16
- C. April 13, SUSD Board Meeting
- D. April 20-24, Spring Book Fair
- E. April 21, Celebrate Cocopah Night & SPC Meeting
- F. April 22, Art Walk
- G. April 30, YAD

- VI. A. Meeting adjourned at 10:00am
- B. Next meeting: Monday, May 3, 2010
 - Evite will go out to all 4^d grade parents