

Minutes: Sequoia APT- August 17, 2009

Meeting called to order by Karla Crall at 8:25am

Executive Members Present: Karla Crall, Lynne Herndon, Christi Warner Beyer, Carla Monson, Rose Fritzke, Debby Wolvos, Lee Ratterman, George Redheffer, Janna Everroad, Carrie Regan

- I. Minutes
 - A. Rose Fritzke made a motion to approve the minutes. Lee Ratterman seconded. Motion passed.
 - B. Karla welcomed attendees, and introductions were made amongst the group.

- II. Treasurer's Report
 - A. Lynne Herndon distributed last year's Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Report, and the same for this year July 1 thru Aug. 16, 2009. Lynne explained that we're typically negative at this time as we've begun spending and the donation drive is just underway. There were questions regarding last year's numbers vs. this year's in some categories. It was explained that some budgets have been reduced due to changes in the programs, and some budgets (ie. Western Roundup) need to be break even events going forward. Lynne will share more at the Volunteer Training on August 31.

- III. Principal's Report
 - A. Mrs. Bhavnani welcomed everyone back and introduced and welcomed the new Assistant Principal, Melissa Weinman. Mrs. Bhavnani confirmed the addition of new staff members including the new psychologist, and new teachers bringing us to four classes in each grade level except 2nd grade. We lost ½ a PE position, but gained a full time music position.
 - B. Mrs. Bhavnani felt the Open House was well done and well-attended.
 - C. She thanked the Kindergarten bus riders and traffic flow helpers. She felt the new traffic flow was effective in reducing the traffic backup on 64th Street, and that things were running more smoothly as the days passed. She said the district may widen the entrance off 64th Street and some of the curbs in our lot to facilitate larger vehicles (if the new flow is successful) . Karla Crall added that the new traffic flow was safer and there had been a handful of complaints but that families understood it was a work in progress. Thanks were made to Diana Sarussi, who headed this up representatives from the City of Scottsdale, Transportation, and Administration.
 - D. Mrs. Bhavnani said enrollment is up to approximately 580.
 - E. Ceiling-mounted projectors and other items from the Technology Override are being installed October 6-8.
 - F. AIMS results from last year include our 4th grade science being No. 1 in the state with 66% of students exceeding. 3rd grade math was #1 in the district, 3rd grade reading was #2 in the district behind Cheyenne. 4th grade math was #1 in the district, and 4th grade reading was #2 in the district.

- G. Mrs. Bhavnani said her goal is to have an open door policy; to listen, resolve issues, and exceed expectations.
- IV. SPC
- A. Karla introduced the new SPC (Scottsdale Parent Council) representative, Barbro Checkett. The first meeting is Wed. night. Barbro will report back to the APT at our next meeting. SPC is made up of parent reps from all district school and meetings are open to the public. The K-3 Override is a current issue.
- V. Business
- A. Lisa Dubnow is in charge of Spirit Wear. They reported they did well at Open House, selling out of boys t-shirts. They are still deciding on merchandise and at which events to sell. It was suggested the long sleeved t's be sold at the Thanksgiving Luncheon and other cool weather events. Suggested events for selling included Western Roundup, the Thanksgiving Luncheon, the Sock Hop, and Family Fun Nights. Rose Fritzke suggested setting up a table at Parent Night this Thursday. Christi Warner Beyer encouraged people to work at one event and asked Lisa Dubnow to come up with a schedule for the next meeting.
- B. As Lisa Cowen was absent, Karla Crall asked that children fill out Donation Drive forms to send to family members. Lee Ratterman added that the forms were also available on the website.
- C. April Wallace is heading up advertising for the directory. Karla Crall said they're going thru back-to-school packets and pass sheets w/ ad information on to April. Lynne Herndon said Lisa Cowan and April Wallace need to send ad and donation paperwork to the school first so it's in the system. Last year, there were 43 ads and we're hoping to meet or exceed that this year. New this year is the opportunity to advertise on-line. Lee Ratterman said there'll be a link to the advertisers/supporters from the home page. George Redheffer asked if there was a deadline, which is August 28. For bidding on the inside cover or back page, the deadline is August 26. April thanked the technology group for their assistance. She shared that the directory price is \$10 which, for the first time, will cover production costs and copies being provided to all staff members. Lynne Herndon feels the directory should consistently be sold at a price to cover production costs, and that the ads should be fundraising monies.
- D. Western Roundup is being chaired by Amy Mariucci, Kathy Potter, Debby Wolvos, and Christi Warner Beyer. The date has been changed to Friday, October 23 with a later time of 5-8pm. There are some changes including the addition of a cake walk, and the possibility of a roping guy. Pony rides will not return due to expense and liability. Dinner will remain the same and will break even. We had some underwriting last year and are hoping they'll come through again. Lee Ratterman said we'll list any underwriters on the website w/ donations over \$120. Amy appealed for clean-up helpers and said the first committee meeting will be on August 24.
- E. Stephanie Kirke is heading up Hospitality this year w/ 5 staff luncheons scheduled (Aug. 14, Oct. 30, Dec. TBD, Feb. 12, May 7). As there are fewer luncheons, the budget is less than last year. Lynne Herndon volunteered to host the Holiday Luncheon in her home.

- F. Debby Wolvos and George Redheffer spoke about Sequoya TV. They have four volunteers and teacher, Mrs. Harris, to assist. Sequoya TV has been on campus for years giving the morning announcements, and is manned primarily by the 5th graders.
 - G. Janna Everroad appealed for school supplies for our sister school, Hohokam Elementary. She said their school is so grateful for any help. Lee Ratterman suggested a heartfelt email blast to encourage giving. Carrie Regan said to remember we have families in need in our own school. Any donations can be given to Bernice in the office.
- VI. Expenses
- A. The APT is funding a floating assistant, whose hours will be used as needed. Hours may be used for library assistant, kindergarten assistant, and 4th and 5th grade reading club/noon duty. We are down ½ position for strings, and we've lost kindergarten assistants and library assistants.
 - B. Mrs. Bhavnani stated that all money (\$1200) for Thinking Maps teacher training has been used.
 - C. Karla Crall and Lynne Herndon asked for receipts or written record of where designated monies are going. Mrs. Bhavnani said she would where applicable.
- VII. Misc.
- A. Barbro Checkett asked Mrs. Bhavnani about writing scores. Mrs. Bhavnani said writing scores are lower than we'd like at Sequoya and have been historically low in our district and state. There is a plan to introduce notebooking to all grade levels in the school because 4th grade writing was higher than other grades. We think this is due, in part, to their science notebooking. Our Site Improvement Plan (SIP) focus has been on reading. To maintain our "Excelling" status we must keep moving more of our students from the "Meets" to the "Exceeds" category in reading.
 - B. Back to School Parent Night is this Thursday, and Mrs. Bhavnani will meet with parents in the cafeteria for 15 minutes prior to classroom meetings.
 - C. Karla Crall asked latecomers to introduce themselves.
 - D. There were several thank you notes from staff for Friday's BBQ luncheon. A thank you letter came from the Texas school Superintendent, recipient of a \$1000 donation from last year's 20th Anniversary "20 Pennies for 20 Years" Service Learning Project.
- VIII. Guest Speaker
- A. Bill Russell, a former Sequoya parent, presented a technical tutorial of our new website registration/sign-up/donation program. Lee Ratterman, VP of Technology, said the goal is to get 20% of families to register on-line this year. The program is easy to update annually and reduces paper in our school community.
- IX. A. Meeting adjourned at 9:40am
- B. Next meeting: Monday, September 15, 2009