

Terraset PTA Meeting Minutes 7pm Tuesday January 5th, 2010

The meeting opened at 7:00pm

Present: Stephannie Randall (President), Heather Thomas (Vice President), Annette Bobby (Treasurer), Liz Falcone (Secretary), Dianne Rose, Aimee Minto, Brian Davidson, Joan Carter, Scott Logan, Hanne Mescall, Rebecca Estrada, Kathy Somer, Suzanne White.

Apologies: Tracy Waller, Alison Stobie.

1. Stephanie Randall opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
2. The minutes from December 1, 2009 were reviewed. Annette Bobby moved they were an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded Scott Logan. Agreed.
3. *Matters arising from previous minutes.*
 - 3.1. Regarding point 6.1 of previous minutes, the Band & String Concert on Tuesday, December 15th. Rebecca Estrada reported an excellent response from parents and students to the "Thank You" poster prepared for Cathy Hudgins. The poster thanked her for all she does for the school and urged her to continue to fight for the retention of school programs under threat due to budget cuts.
 - 3.2. Regarding point 4.3 of previous minutes, Principals and Assistant Principals have been called to a mandatory meeting on Thursday, January 7th with Superintendent Jack Dale. It is anticipated he will give a briefing on his proposed budget to be released later that evening.
4. *President's Report:*
 - 4.1. On the same night as our Band & Strings Concert, Stu Gibson addressed a meeting at HWES. He made it clear that a "grass roots" effort is required in order to influence the outcome of the budget. Stephanie and Liz to draft a letter template for school community to forward to their "spheres of influence". The letter will include a call to action, background information, and a sample email to send to both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors.
 - 4.2. The Chick-fil-A *Tigers on the Town* night was very successful raising \$375. The next night will be a Dominos Home Delivery Night! It was suggested that we consider "Flippin' Pizza" too.
5. *Treasurer's Report:* There have been no major activities this month. Spiritwear drive virtually broke even as expected. The Teacher Minigrant fund still has \$7400 in it.
6. *Principal's Report:*
 - 6.1. There has been one staff addition: Catherine Scroggie has been appointed as a part-time Special Education Instructional Assistant. She will assume the position held by Angela Pettersen who has now taken the Kindergarten Teacher position left vacant by Mrs. Furmanski.
 - 6.2. Having used three snow days prior to the winter break, should there be another snow day, the make-up day will be Monday, February 15th, Presidents' Day.
 - 6.3. There will be no further mandated testing in the school until March when 5th grade will undertake the writing SOL test.
7. *Teacher's Mini-grant Applications*
 - 7.1. Mr Logan applied for \$175 to support a 5th grade field trip to the National Geographic center to see the Terracota Warriors exhibition on February 2nd. The field trip is aligned with a global awareness

- component of the students' curriculum. Annette Bobby moved to support the application. Seconded Dianne Rose. Agreed.
- 7.2. Ms Pallatucci applied for \$150 to cover the registration fees for selected 5th grade students to attend a Peer Mediators Seminar at GMU. Trained students are able to act a Peer Mediators in 6th grade, a well established program that has now been in operation for 18 years. Scott Logan moved to support the application. Seconded Heather Thomas. Agreed.
 - 7.3. The meeting suggested a reminder to teachers be included in TouchPoint regarding the availability of Teacher Minigrant funds.
8. *Yoga opportunity*: After School Program and Fundraiser. Maryam Ovissi, co-owner of Beloved Yoga, and a parent at Terraset, has offered a series of yoga classes to the Terraset community.
 - 8.1. A fundraiser class at her studios for \$10 per participant with \$7 going to the PTA. The suggested date is February 27th.
 - 8.2. After School Program classes: one for grades K-2, a second for grades 3-6.
 - 8.3. A Teacher Appreciation Class. Offered at the school, for staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.
 9. *FCPS Budget 2010-1011 Update* - addressed under matters arising from minutes.
 10. *Skate Night Report*: Skate Night will be held on Saturday, January 16th. Advance sales are slow, but there are a number of promotions that will hopefully encourage people to attend.
 - We will give away six free tickets via WTER as part of the Positive Behavior System (PBS or green slip) drawings.
 - When eight students in a class buy a pre-paid ticket, the teacher will receive a free ticket
 - If a group buys four tickets, they will get a fifth free.
 - Skate night will be promoted via WTER and the PTA newsletter/email announcements
 11. *Bingo Night Report*: Bingo Night is scheduled for Friday, February 5th. A request for basket items will be sent out in the next Tuesday Pack. Baked food for the concession stand will be provided by community service students. The Rose family volunteered to arrange pizza for the night. There will be ten games, using three cards per game sold for \$10 per game.
 12. *Box Tops Report*: we are expecting a check for just over \$400. This accounts for collections through to November. The next collection will close on January 15th. The meeting was reminded that we also collect Campbell's Soup Labels to accrue credits for the school. The credits can be used to order items from their catalog.
 13. *Carnival Preparations*: Kim Lowther will Chair the Carnival Committee this year. The dates under consideration are April 17th and April 18th. It was suggested that Sunday is better for logistical purposes. It leaves Saturday available for setup. Kim will be calling for subcommittee chairs and a co-chair. We will probably need 120 volunteers.
 14. *Other Business*:
 - 14.1. Scott Logan reported that in addition to no salary step and no cost of living increment, teachers now may face a reduction in the benefits available via the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). It has been suggested that employer contributions to VRS may be reduced. There is speculation that this could lead to earlier retirements and change over in staff.
 - 14.2. Teacher Appreciation Day will be held January 29th. Kathy Somer will coordinate a breakfast.
 - 14.3. The school has established a Recognition Committee. The committee has recommended that Mary Whele be nominated for Teacher of the Year. Letters of recommendation have been provided by Mrs. Sybert, Mrs. Byrnes, the Mescall Family, and the Principal.
 - 14.4. Online Spiritwear: a test site has been established by Brian Davidson. He ordered some garments to review their quality. The sample sent was a Hanes T-shirt. This was considered appropriate. It sells for \$20 of which 8% would go to the PTA. This is approximately the same as our current system however the purchaser would have to pay shipping. To help off-set this additional cost, the online system could be used to order in bulk to secure a discount, also enabling the provision of service to those who do not want to order online. It was suggested we trial the online system in spring.

The meeting closed at 8:08 pm.

Next meeting: 7pm, Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010.