

Clinton Elementary PTA  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2017

**Present:**

Ann Bodnar, Kimmberly Bulkley, Eileen Campos, Jonelle Delk, Paul Gaykowski, Liz Gordon, Anne Harding, Annie Horcasitas, Jeffrey Lehman, Jess Murphy, Margy Nolan, Renata O'Beirne, Ambra Teague, Katie Rumley, Marie Clair Sonneman

**Absent:**

Andrea Beck, Arden Canecchia, Jennifer Cudmore, Candice Davenport, Donna Herley, Sharon Geraghty, Donna Herley, Kathleen Hong, Verna Jackson, Maureen Jones, Michael Mack, April Mason, Renata O'Beirne, Norman Villatoro

Jonelle Delk moved and Eileen Campos seconded the motion to open the meeting.

Jonelle Delk moved and Eileen Campos seconded the motion to approve the February 2017 meeting minutes.

**Katie Rumley** provided the **Special Education** Report:

April is Autism Awareness Month and one of the district teacher's is working on a summary of events that the district hopes to roll out to raise awareness.

**Jeffrey Lehman** provided the **Teachers'** Report:

The teachers were reminded about the Clinton Auction as well as the availability of field trip monies.

The board thanked the teachers for donating events to the Clinton Auction.

**Liz Gordon** provided the **President's** Report:

Liz reminded the executive board that attendance is expected at the Clinton Auction.

The Art and Music nights will be separate this year. The Music Night will be held at SOMS to accommodate the large number of students participating. The Art Night will be held at Clinton and we hope to have Clinton Alumni providing music during the event.

Liz asked whether the use of the third-party audio vendor improved the sound quality during the Clinton School Show. The feedback about the impact of the audio was mixed.

Presidents' Council this month focused on two topics – budget and recent bias events. There was considerable feedback on these topics. Dr. Ramos offered to meet with concerned families. The new communications plan being prepared by the Board was also discussed – it is expected to expedite the sharing of information with parents. South Orange Village President, Sheena

Collum, spoke to the council about the various construction projects in South Orange and the potential increase tax benefits to the schools.

**Ann Bodnar** provided the **Principal's** Report:

Ms. Bodnar addressed the current bias concerns that have recently occurred in other district schools. Ms. Bodnar shared that as a lifelong member of the Maplewood-South Orange district these incidents are personally heartbreaking. Ms. Bodnar reiterated her commitment to continuing to build and reinforce the inclusive environment that is the corner stone of the Clinton School community. Her administration and staff or moving forward as leaders in this space and they will continue to stand up for the rights of all the students at our school. She does not take the trust of our community for granted and she invites families to continue to reach out to her and maintain an open dialogue on these challenging topics.

Ms. Bodnar shared that she is preparing to submit a proposal for an administrator's achieve grant (\$10,000) related to the Leader in Me program. She also shared that there is an opportunity to visit a Leader in Me program in action on March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in visiting Robert Morris School in South Brunswick please let Ms. Bodnar or Liz Gordon know. The event will run from 9-1.

Election Day for the NJ Governor's race will be June 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Bodnar is exploring options for offsite learning opportunities for our students. Last year classes participated in field trips during the June election date.

**Jess Murphy** provided the **Vice President's** Report:

Jess shared an idea for a Clinton Guidebook that would include helpful information to assist new families with acclimating to the community. Jess will circulate a draft for comment. If you are interested in participating in the sub-committee that will work on the guidebook please let Jess know.

Jess will also be working on a volunteer survey.

Jess has the Hate Has No Place Here signs to put up on the school grounds.

**Liz Gordon** provided the **President Emeritus** Report on behalf of **Andrea Beck**:

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Artist In Residence Program will be the Newark Print Shop. For two weeks in May 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in an intensive workshop designed to strengthen community engagement in the fine art of printmaking. Students will learn about printmaking processes including cyanotype and screen-printing to create a large collaborative print mural for the school.

The Nominating Committee will be sending a note to the community soliciting candidates for the open roles (including 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, VP, Cultural Arts, VP, Membership, VP, Public

Relations, Assistant VP, Fundraising, Special Education/PTO Liaison and 1 Member at Large Position. The Nominating Committee will be Andrea Beck, Candice Davenport and Kimmberly Bulkley. The deadline for the submission of candidates is April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Liz Gordon** provided the **Cultural Arts** Report on behalf of **Candice Davenport**:

The final assembly will be for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The assembly is a Holocaust Survivor Presentation.

The International Dinner is April 20<sup>th</sup> and the entertainment will be the Filipino Folk Dancers.

**Jonelle Delk** provided the **Treasurer's** Report:

\$53,491.98 is in the bank account.

Amazon is doing well. The read-a-thon has raised \$6,600 to date.

We received a thank you from Achieve and a \$250 donation from Morrow Church on behalf of Mrs. Latimer. We also received a thank you from Mr. Korellis for supporting his achieve grant.

**Margy Nolan** provided the **Member at Large** Report:

The Clinton Auction is Friday night. Everything is in good shape. Please come out and support the event.

**Anne Harding** provided the **Garden/Courier** Report:

Anne discussed the need for succession planning for her role. She shared the garden mission statement and a discussion about hiring a helper/educator for the garden took place. Further information is needed.

Anne needs more student contributions for the Courier. She will place an ad on the job board at the school.

There were no Fundraising, Membership, ELL, PR reports.

Jess Murphy moved to close the meeting and Jonelle Delk seconded the motion. The meeting was closed at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Bulkley

