

Clinton Elementary PTA  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2017

**Present:**

Andrea Beck, Ann Bodnar, Kimmerly Bulkley (by phone), Eileen Campos, Jennifer Cudmore, Candice Davenport, Jonelle Delk, Liz Gordon, Annie Horcasitas, Verna Jackson, Maureen Jones, Jeffrey Lehman, Jess Murphy, Renata O'Beirne, Ambra Teague

**Absent:**

Arden Canecchia, Paul Gaykowski, Sharon Geraghty, Anne Harding, Donna Herley, Kathleen Hong, Michael Mack, April Mason, Margy Nolan, Katie Rumley, Norman Villatoro

Eileen Campos moved and Verna Jackson seconded the motion to open the meeting.

Eileen Campos moved and Verna Jackson seconded the motion to approve the April 2017 meeting minutes.

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

Principal Bodnar thanked the PTA and the Clinton Community for kindness shown to the administrators, teachers and school nurse on Principal's Day, during teacher appreciation week, and on Nurses day. Everyone was very touched by the thoughtful tokens of appreciation.

Principal Bodnar shared that the Rising Star summer program will continue at Clinton School this summer (k-2) to help students maintain what they have learned during the school year. Camp Invention (rising 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>) will take place for 1 week, June 26-30. Due to the cut in Title 1 funding a fee will be charged. The cost will be approximately \$150. The camp will run from 8:30-2:30. There are 48 spots.

Clinton Fest will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> and will be held outside (weather permitting). The event will celebrate the students working together to meet the school goals (minutes of motion, reading goals and box top collection amounts). It will also include Locomania and Field Day activities.

Tomorrow Principal Bodnar and Assistant Principal Beaumont will represent Clinton School at the district's job fair. Principal Bodnar shared that our teacher needs for next year include one additional teacher as well as a long-term substitute who will cover for Ms. Abdelrohman during her maternity leave. We may also need another special education teacher. Mr. Mack prepared a video for use at the job fair. The video highlights the special aspects of our community. The video was played for the board and received positive feedback. Principal Bodnar hopes to post the video on Clinton's website.

Clinton will also participate in Montclair State's job fair.

Clinton will be undertaking a heat mapping exercise next year to determine if there are opportunities to improve the temperature in the classrooms to create an optimal learning

environment. Mary Claire Solomon will be overseeing the process interviewing teachers and assessing the temperature in each classroom.

PARCC testing is over for the year! Principal Bodnar recognized Assistant Principal Beaumont for all of his work on this daunting project.

At a recent board meeting a presentation of PARCC data was reviewed. The presentation demonstrated that there has been a lot of progress for Clinton in the last two years. Our scores are on par with the other district schools now.

Principal Bodnar shared that she has been continuing to work with Seton Hall University to see if we can establish a program with their education majors to be part of a substitute pool. The students would have an advisor, complete substitute training and work with the Clinton for about 1.5 years as part of a pod. It is an exciting opportunity to be exploring.

Principal Bodnar is also working on establish the bias awareness training we have discussed in recent meetings.

**Jennifer Cudmore and Jeffrey Lehman** provided the **Teacher's** Report:

The teachers' thanked everyone for all teachers' appreciation week. There were so many personal gestures and the teachers really enjoyed that the kids were more involved in the process.

Artist in Residence is amazing this year. The kids love it and they are learning a lot.

Lots of field trips happening now.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade visited a working hen house.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade walked to Columbia High School to watch the Special Dance Company performance. It was very high caliber and our students were impressed. Mrs. Fleming is a former member of the group and her daughter is a current member. Former Principal Ms. O'Neill was also a member of the group. Tuscan School also attended the performance this year.

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

Liz elaborated on Principal Bodnar's Clinton Fest discussion. It will be outside primarily at Underhill field. The bathrooms at Underhill will be available for the students. Lunch will still be in the cafeteria but children will not be in contact with the voters. We will have field day, rock climbing wall, art stations, imagination playground blocks etc. We also hope to have a 52 foot pirate obstacle course bounce house, a world of Disney bounce house ( approximate cost: \$932 for the whole day and a snow cone machine (approximate cost: \$82). We will call for a vote to spend no more than \$2,000 once we have more information.

We will need lots of volunteers – more information to come (Principal Bodnar is recruiting 30 HS volunteers). If you are interested there is a SignUpGenius. Right now there are 4 hour shifts. A suggestion was made to make the shifts 2 hours to increase volunteers. Liz will review the offerings to see if the shifts can be modified. There is another meeting about the event on Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:15pm.

The Spring Fair will be June 15<sup>th</sup> (the same day as the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Philly). There will be an art truck and a food truck; pizza will also be sold. There will be volunteer tables at the Spring Fair this year to start building volunteer pools for next year. It will also be the last General PTA meeting.

June 9<sup>th</sup> is Kindergarten Orientation from 9-11:30 and a few volunteers are needed. Liz will create a SignUpGenius.

Clinton Kids will march in the Memorial Day parade but there will not be a float. We will have a banner and hand out candy instead.

The Art Festival and Music Concerts are next week. An email needs to go to alumni about the events.

**Liz Gordon** provided the **Special Education** Report on behalf of **Katie Rumley**:

Mr. Leiberman will end his term as Interim Director on June 30<sup>th</sup> but would help transition the permanent hire if one is found in a reasonable time frame. The search is open and active.

**Andrea Beck** provided the **President Emeritus** Report:

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Artist In Residence Program is the Newark Print Shop. For two weeks in May 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are participate in an intensive workshop designed to strengthen community engagement in the fine art of printmaking. The artists have required a lot of support but it is a great program.

Andrea presented, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, the PTA Executive Board slate for the 2017-2018 school year. The candidates were reviewed and the slate was put to a vote. The slate was adopted unanimously. There is one open role that should be filled in the next few weeks.

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

The budget meeting for next year will happen soon so please let Jonelle know if you have thoughts about your budgets for next year.

We will keep the teacher grant program for next year. The focus will shift from STEAM to Leader in Me.

Supply lists for next year were discussed briefly. Maureen delivers the school supplies kits to the school in August. Forms will go out in backpacks and will be available at Kindergarten orientation. We have seen an increase in participation in this fundraiser in the last few years.

Leader in Me binders were also discussed. It was determined that upper grades need 2 inch binders for the Leader in Me program and lower grades can use 1 ½ inch binders.

\$76,597.34 is in the bank account. There will be approximately \$45,000 to attach to projects and carry over.

The mats for PE (3 walls and corner) will cost \$8,280 to purchase and install. State guidelines require 3 bids prior to selecting the vendor.

**Candice Davenport** provided the **Cultural Arts and Achieve** report:

Honor your Teachers program through Achieve will start soon - look for the flyer. It is a great way to recognize teachers.

**Liz Gordon** provided the **Garden/Courier** Report on behalf of **Anne Harding**:

Anne shared that our garden resource/educator has been well received. The kids are enjoying the activities and our garden resource/educator has a lot of great ideas for the fall.

**Annie Horcasitas** provided the **ELL** report:

Annie shared that she has started to meet some of the hard to reach families (children speak English but the parents do not). She would like to create an insert for the teacher assignment letters that advises the recipient of the translation resources available.

**Jess Murphy** provided the **VP** report:

The Presidents Council topics included the All Voices book drive. The district will host the book drive to expand diverse book offerings in our libraries. There will be a website and Amazon wish lists.

The K-5 committee is reviewing the Social Studies curriculum to increase the global focus. They are reviewing the NYC curriculum as an example.

The small capital improvements process is cumbersome. They are reviewing to determine more efficient methods for processing small needs.

Myla Jacey spoke about the Governor's race.

There was not much of an update on the building reutilization process.

On June 14 and 16<sup>th</sup> Seniors will walk through their elementary and middle schools in their cap and gowns.

Lunch subsidy issues were discussed and the district is looking for ways to help these children. {Clinton will have a fund next year to use to purchase lunch for these children when necessary.

Fifth grade will be participating in a fence post project. Each fifth grader will paint a post.

The incoming kindergarten playdates will be July 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and August 15<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday evening). Clinton gear will be sold at the event.

There were no Fundraising, Membership, PR reports.

Jonelle Delk moved to close the meeting and Candice Davenport seconded the motion. The meeting was closed at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Bulkley