

Clinton Elementary PTA
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2016

Present:

Andrea Beck, Ann Bodnar, Eileen Campos, Candice Davenport, Jonelle Delk, Paul Gaykowski, Liz Gordon, Anne Harding, Donna Herley, Verna Jackson, Maureen Jones, James Lehman, Michael Mack, Jess Murphy, Margy Nolan, Renata O'Beirne, Katie Rumley

Absent:

Timothy Beaumont, Kimmerly Bulkley, Arden Canecchi, Sharon Geraghty, Kathleen Hong, Annie Horcasitas, April Mason Nichols, Ambra Teague, Norman Villatoro

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

Eileen Campos moved and Jess Murphy seconded the motion to approve the September 2016 meeting minutes.

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

All is running smoothly. We appreciate the PTA and all they do for us.

Two Clinton families lost their homes in a fire in Maplewood last weekend. Right now, the family members who were displaced are staying with different family members, and the children are still coming to school. They are still looking for permanent housing. The Main Office is collecting gift cards for the families. Target and Visa cards are preferred because the cards provide the most flexibility for the families to address their immediate needs. Once the families secure permanent housing, Ms. Bodnar and Mrs. Rollo will work with the families to see what donations of household goods, clothing, furniture, etc. they will need. The Clinton staff is working to collect something for each boy to have that is just fun - they are hoping to replace two bigger ticket toys that were lost in the fire.

The Nurse's office is low on boys' clothes to have on hand for accidents. If you have easy sweatpants, shorts, etc., please give them to Mrs. Harrigan.

Clinton staff will participate in a professional development workshop on selective mutism. Cases of selective mutism have been on the rise in the past few years, and the staff would like to proactively increase their knowledge on this topic. A Rutgers professor will give a presentation during a faculty meeting next month.

Nov 8th is a Professional Development Day for staff. The district has selected social-emotional development as the focus topic this year for elementary schools. Clinton will utilize the Leader in Me program to facilitate the training in this area. We will dedicate some of this time to allow the teachers to work together to implement some of the concepts discussed and ideas generated in the workshop. For instance, they may set a school wide goal which will be

announced to the students when they return on Wednesday (e.g., read X books, collect x Box Tops).

Each year, the teachers also participate in PLC (professional learning communities). Teachers get together twice a month and work together to increase their knowledge in their area/topic of interest. Last year, our specialists focused on "Leader in Me" and it has really taken off at Clinton. Ms. Bodnar purchased copies of the book for every staff member, and many read it to complete their requirement to complete seven hours of professional development beyond the PD workshops offered by the district. Several Clinton teachers, Mr. Beaumont and Ms. Bodnar visited Leader in Me schools in the past year. Those teachers will be organizing PD for the rest of the Clinton staff focused on the concepts from the Leader in Me program at a date to be determined. They may also bring in a representative of a firm that helps schools implement the Leader in Me program. She will give us an hour long presentation about what is involved fully implementing the Leader in Me program at our school.

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

Teacher Grants: The committee is meeting later tonight to make decisions on the first round of teacher grants. Even if we award all those grants, we still have a lot of money left in the fund. The next deadline for applications is December 12, and the focus of grant requests should be on innovation and play.

Volunteers: Liz would like to start thinking about ways to recruit new volunteers. We've tried a couple of new ideas, and hope it's inspiring people to become more involved. Liz shared that she is breaking down volunteer jobs into new categories (how much time you have to volunteer, when you volunteer, etc.) Please review the categories and use the information when you are talking to parents. Emphasize that you don't have to be on the Board to volunteer. Tell people what their options are, what different jobs there are - times, etc. Please make also sure to share information with new parents.

We are considering holding a volunteer fair toward the end of the year, perhaps as part of the spring picnic.

It was suggested a message go out through class parents explaining the different ways to volunteer.

PTA Closet Clean Up - We also will need volunteers to help organize and clean out the closet. If you are running an event, please check the closet ahead of time to see what supplies we have before you purchase new supplies. Often after events, people put supplies back haphazardly and leave the closet a mess. Please make sure you plan time and have volunteers to make sure the closet is clean and organized when you are finished.

Pumpkin Sale - We will sell the leftover pumpkins from Pumpkin Patch to raise money for the Clinton families who lost their homes in fires. Margy Nolan volunteered to help sell pumpkins after school on Friday.

PTA Holiday Party The holiday party would be December 2nd. Spouses and significant others are welcome. There will likely be some sort of white elephant or gift giving game.

Please let the teachers know that as field trips are getting planned, they must get bus requests in ASAP.

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

Presidents Council: Clinton will be participating in the MapSO Cares food drive in January and June. Students from CHS' MapSO Cares program will provide the collection boxes and pick up the food to distribute to local food pantries.

The school district is encouraging all families to use Let's Talk for communication with the district and schools, and would like us to add the link directly to the website.

Senior Share - There is a new program in Maplewood that is focused on reaching out to seniors in town. They are setting up a buddy system to connect students to seniors in town. The goal is to make sure somebody is checking in on our seniors during weather and other emergencies, and making sure seniors are fully aware of the services available to them through the township. They are looking for volunteers to canvas the seniors identified through the voter rolls and make them aware of the program.

Redistricting: The redistricting consultant shared data about the data collected so far at the last BOE meeting. They will present proposals in November, take input from the community and the final recommendations will go for BOE approval in the Spring of 2017. Currently the district is in an unsustainable situation, and our schools are all maxed out.

There will be a BOE Candidates Fair at CHS Library, November 3, 7-8:30 pm.

Halloween/Harvest Fest: Trunk or Treat will be held 12:45 - 2:15 on the 31st. Harvest Fest will run concurrently, with six stations that students will visit in 15 minute rotations. Stations include cookie decorating, leaf art, making playdough with autumn colors and scents, pumpkin ring toss, etc.

We need two volunteers at each station, and you will be able to leave to watch your child in the parade. All support staff will be helping at the Harvest Fest as well. Our goal is to make the Harvest Fest so much fun, that more and more kids will opt in over time.

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

\$64,030.54 bank balance

We are just \$200 away from reaching our goal in the No Frills Fundraiser this year.

We filed the 2015-16 taxes and filed the Annual Report (due 1/31/17). We also submitted July-Oct 2016 bank reconciliations.

Donna Herley provided the **Fundraising** report:

Picture Day is this Thursday.

Charleston Wrap orders are very low, but this is likely because the teachers haven't all sent home the packages yet. The PTA makes close to \$2,000 on Charleston Wrap. The deadline is November 11.

Election Day Meals to Go & Bake Sale will be held on November 8th. We will sell takeaway meals and baked goods, depending on what the volunteers agree to donate. We will definitely open early in the morning and from 3-7pm, to match the peak voter turnout times. We are looking for volunteers to donate food and work the sale.

Display My Art - magnets will be back November 10/11, and you will be able to place orders in time for the holidays.

Verna Jackson provided the **Membership** report:

67 members, 32 are teachers, and half of those are already entered into PTAvenue. We expect more memberships to come in.

Renata O'Bierne provided the **Community Events** report:

Locomania is on Friday. Everything is on track, though we may get rained out. The rain date is 11/9.

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

The assemblies for the year include:

- The Clinton Farmers' Market (was held September 16th). The cost of the event is \$1800.
- A laser light show is being discussed for November 22nd
- On March 3rd the Cory the Dribbler will perform
- A Filipino Dance Group will perform at the International Dinner

The PTA has purchased a dollie to use to cart supplies around. It is stored by the school clothing bins in the auditorium if anyone needs to use it.

The deadline for the Achieve Teacher Application Grant is 10/20 (tomorrow).

Ambra Teague and **Margy Nolan** provided the **Member at Large** report:

Margy Nolan provided a report about the Auction and Tricky Tray, which will be held 3/24 at Seton Hall. There was a vote to approve the payment of \$800 to Seton Hall to book the facility. The vote was approved unanimously.

Katie Rumley provided the **SEPAC/PTO** report:

Ella Rideau, is retiring early next year. October 20th is the Special Ed Back to School Night. They will organize the event into sections for parents who are new to Special Ed, elementary school aged, high school age, etc. This is in response to feedback about last year's event. There will also be support staff and case managers there to speak with about your concerns and questions.

Anne Harding provided the **Garden** and **Courier** reports:

First Courier layout is ready, and it will be published soon. We provide a few hard copies for each teacher, to give to kids who don't have Internet access. There will be a meeting with Mrs. Latimer tomorrow to get articles from the kids.

They are s finding out from teachers who would like a garden bed, and will leave it to them to use as they would like. The Garden team will clean up the beds that aren't claimed. The Garden Committee is holding a beautification day on 10/23, 10-12pm.

Mr. Lehman and **Mr. Mack** provided the **Teachers'** report:

32 teachers have joined the PTA so far this year. Mr. Lehman will follow up with teachers who haven't yet submitted their membership forms.

The teachers asked about the status of the water bottle filling stations. The district has committed to install one at every school before the start of the next school year. PTAs, through Presidents Council, offered to pay for a second water bottle station that could be installed at the same time.

They asked that the PTA share information about the District Green Team meetings so Clinton can send a representative.

Mr. Lehman shared that there is a new HD projection system in the gym thanks to the PEP Grant. He will show the PTA how it works in case we want to use it for movies and events.

Mr. Mack shared a video from the “Chalk it Up to Respect” event. Fifth graders walked to CHS and worked with together with those students to write respect words on the sidewalks around the high school.

There was no Public Relations report.

Jonelle Delk moved Eileen Campos close the meeting and Candice Davenport seconded the motion. The meeting was closed at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Bulkley