

Clinton Elementary PTA
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2018

Present:

Andrea Beck, Ann Bodnar, Kimmerly Bulkley, Jennifer Cudmore, Jonelle Delk, Liz Gordan, Kali Fields Williams, Anne Harding, Jeffrey Lehman, Michael Mack, Kelly Mortimer, Jess Murphy, Margy Nolan, Renata O'Beirne, Ambra Teague, Judy Tu, Traci Zaretska

Absent:

Jamie Ebright, Paul Gaykowski, Annie Horcasitas, Donna Herley, Kathleen Hong, Maureen Jones, Ava Padmore, Mary Clair Sonneman, Norman Villatoro, Katie Walmsley

Jonelle Delk moved and Kelly Mortimer seconded the motion to open the meeting.

Kelly Mortimer moved and Jonelle Delk seconded the motion to approve the December 2017 meeting minutes.

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

Jess shared that several teacher grant applications were received and have been approved. In addition, monies will be awarded to Clinton teachers who received partially funded Achieve grants so that their grants will be fully funded. Jess will let the teachers know when the next deadline for grant applications will occur.

The board took time to reflect on the passing of Sharon Geraghty, a parent of two Clinton graduates and active school and community volunteer. Sharon was a member of the executive PTA board at Clinton for many years. Sharon's dedication to the children of Clinton and the broader community was unparalleled and Clinton is in the process of determining an appropriate way to honor her memory. In the meantime, the members of the current PTA board are committed to continuing her legacy of volunteerism and community improvement. One way Jess is continuing to promote volunteerism is by sending a volunteer "shout out" each day through the Clinton Families Facebook page. Each "shout out" highlights the contributions of a dedicated volunteer in the Clinton Community.

At the last Elementary School Presidents' council it was decided that the group would create a status report of their top concerns to share with district leadership. The top concerns currently include: Lack of Allergy Policy (currently in approval process before the Board of Ed), Lunch Aide Certification (CPR and Epipen), Bus Emergency Procedures, Digital Citizenship learning, and Pick-up/Drop-off Traffic Safety.

The next General Meeting is being moved to February 5th from 9-11a.m. and will involve a presentation from Leader In Me expert. The meeting will help parents learn how to incorporate the habits into daily life at home.

Ambra Teague provided the **Vice President's** Report:

Ambra provided additional information from the Presidents' Council. Tom Shea, the district's new Director of Security, provided an update on several safety concerns. Tom shared that they are trying to address the traffic concerns. They are also working to implement a crisis response team and reviewing a communications system (Nixel) to assist with communicating with families during a crisis. Bus safety procedures are also being reviewed.

Mr. Shea would like to upgrade the current lockdown procedures to use ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) and has purchased Bear-I-Cade door safety products. He will be working to provide more training to lunch aides and has provided principals with additional safety information.

Madhu Pai provided district goals from the board of education which can be found on the board of education website.

The facility upgrade proposal will likely be presented to the board of school estimated in January 2019.

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

There is \$61,177.84 in the PTA bank account.

Teachers are reminded to turn in their classroom expenses (up to \$100) for reimbursement and put in their requests for field trip supports.

Mrs. Latimer requested a Roomba for her room and it will be deducted from the money in the library budget.

The Raz kids renewal for K-3 is \$1367.28 (there was a 10% discount this year. Jonelle proposed that the PTA pay \$1000 of the cost from our IT budget and the remainder from the teacher grant fund. Jonelle put forth a motion to the board and the motion was approved.

We have made \$1062.30 for box tops; \$4,000 for no frills fundraiser and \$2200 from school photos.

Liz Gordon provided the **Ex Officio** Report:

Trivia Night is next Friday. We have nine teams signed up. The teachers are organizing teams as well. Get you forms in soon. Liz is working on judges and the questions are ready to go! It should be a fun night.

It is time for the nominating committee to form and begin working. The committee consists of 3 people and should have at least one person from South Orange and one person from Maplewood. Liz will lead the committee this year.

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

The 1st grade "harmonize" sing and learn program was wonderful. Thank you to Liz for her help organizing this event. The performance was done by Broadway actors. The presentation teaches social skills through song and sign language.

Kudos to Clinton – NJ evaluators brought principals from schools recently classified as Focus schools to observe Clinton School. Clinton School worked very hard to move out of Focus status and the visitors were very impressed by the learning environment present at that school. It is a reminder of the strength of our community. Clinton will be recognized for its efforts at the next Board of Education meeting.

The next Leader in Me professional development for staff will be in the afternoon on February 5th. In the morning a program will be offered for parents.

Principal Bodnar will be meeting with the Chief of Police about traffic issues.

The first assembly was great – thank you to Traci.

The Lighthouse Committee has been meeting monthly and just ran their first 15 minute assembly for the students. The focus was on greetings – handshakes and greeting language. It was very well received.

Jessica Murphy provided the **Fundraising** report for **Jamie Ebright**:

Jamie is reviewing options for vendors for the school photos next year.

The auction chairs (Celi Jiminez and Jerusha Oleksiuk) have are working on soliciting for gifts. More volunteers are needed for various aspects of the auction – volunteer if you are able. The Auction will be February 23rd at St. Josephs.

Teachers who are able to offer donations/parties should complete the form and submit to Andrea Beck as soon as possible.

Tracey Zaretzka provided the **Cultural Arts** Report:

The Indian Dance assembly went smoothly. Next month will be the Secret World of Robots.

Member at Large/Honorary Emeritus Reports:

The raspberry pie devices have been distributed to the teachers who have agreed to monitor the heat patterns in their classrooms.

Mary Claire also initiated a dialogue about increasing the indoor recess options. An engaged discussion followed. Ms. Bodnar reiterated the district and building policy which encourages outdoor play unless weather and/or safety concerns exist. Indoor classroom play is the best indoor option currently. Use of the auditorium and video content is a last resort. Mary Claire will be researching short videos with educational content for consideration.

Kelli Mortimer provided the **Public Relations** Report:

Please remember to use the Clinton Families Facebook page to post information and events.

Anne Harding provided the **Courier** Report:

The next issue will be out this week. Anne's son will graduate next year and we need to talk about a replacement for Anne to cover the Courier after that time.

There were no ELL, Community Events, Teachers, Membership or Webmaster reports.

Jonelle Delk moved to close the meeting and Kelli Mortimer seconded the motion. The meeting was closed at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Bulkley