

Schuylkill School and Home Association Meeting

September 6, 2017

Minutes:

0. Pre-Meeting Discussion of Teacher's Appreciation

The Board discussed an idea for the kids to buy flowers for their teachers during teacher's appreciation week. We would sell them for a small amount above cost, with the goal of most breaking even. We would pre-print tags with teachers' names on them to make the process more efficient. Kids would only have to write their name on the tag. Kids could buy as many as they want and could get them or any staff member. The plan would be to sell on April 8th and 9th and give them out on the 11th. Lunches this year are 10:45-1:00 (last lunch starts at 12:30) and we would need volunteers to help the kids fill out the tags. There are no kids 12:15-12:30.

1. **Welcome** (SSHA President Cindy Schulz)
2. **Guest speakers** - Chris Mancini (Conicelli) & Ken Nixon (John Kennedy), Ford Drive 4UR School update

Every form is worth \$20. Forms need to be completely filled out and can only have one form per household. Starts 4:30 or 5:00. Raised \$2400 last year. Need 300 drivers to max out \$6000. Vehicles expected: Expedition, Mustang, Explorer, little Transit van.

3. **Principal's Update** (Dr. Harmer)

Heather Khazen and Dr. Harmer are looking into options for music for the ice cream social. There are ~30 new kids at the school this year. Arrival and Discussal have been going very smoothly this year. The kids are going straight to their classrooms this year. Dismissal is completed by 3:23. We

will be doing Back-to-school all in one night. There will be two sessions: 6:15-7 and 7-7:45. You can attend either time. Teachers will partner presentations for 4th and 5th. The Horsham outdoor school will present about Fall camping. In 4th and 5th grade, in addition to the specials teachers, students will have different teachers for

1. 120 minutes of math, science, social studies;
2. 120 minutes of English and Language arts (reading, writing, etc.)
3. 30 minutes of WIN

4. **Budget** (Treasurer Katie Schneider)

- a. Review
- b. Check Writing Campaign

Downsized estimates to account for the lower enrollment without first grade. Most of the outdoor classroom is completed and paid for. The total for the check writing campaign was \$9000 last year, but we expect this to be much lower because there are fewer students/families without first grade. The check writing campaign is expected to start the week of the 18th. The Board mentioned that we were planning on looking into additional options to reach out to families and friends possibly via postcards. There were concerns raised that at the PAKC in the past people felt that they were forced to give extra names to participate in field day. The Board stated that this was not the model we were planning to copy and that there would be no strings attached to putting in additional names and the names will not be saved. Another parent mentioned that we should clarify that this is our primary fundraiser, and that we should not state that it is our only fundraiser. Concerns were raised about how parents will react to getting the Kids Stuff books around the same time as the check writing campaign. Parents are under no obligation to participate in any of the fundraisers.

5. **Committee Updates** (Vice President Warren Anders and committee chairs)

- a. Kid Stuff Books

New chair - Millie Hubbard. A book will be sent home with every student. Teachers will track the books if they want and will get a free

book. If you send a book home they are more likely to buy one. No door to door sales. A concern was raised as to whether people will be “put-off” by getting books home during the check writing campaign. We planned to look into options for offsetting the timing.

b. Ice Cream Social

Three people volunteered. Mainly need a few more people for the car stuff.

c. Open Positions – All Chair positions are being organized into binders. Some are more technical and some are more at home. Add time commitments and what time of day to the chair and disseminate at back-to-school night.

Publishing Center – Committee had three coordinators, one each per grade. Rachel Hettinger volunteered to coordinate 2nd Grade. Jonelle is 5th grade parent and we need a shadow. Mrs. Kornaga offered to help if they needed to scale back.

Restaurant Night –

Petrucis – We already have plans for Spring and Fall.

Unos is a good option because they allow Sundays.

My Favorite Muffin - We did well with them last year. They allow a percentage of all sales and don't require a flyer.

Tavern at Valley Forge – Last year they offered us a whole month. They are a Schuylkill family and we will check to see if they are interested in doing this again and we would try to figure out ways to make this more successful for both sides.

Applebees – We have already scheduled a pancake breakfast for early January.

Helping Hands – We talked about pushing the money collection to the spring, but keeping the special days in the fall. We also talked about trying to figure out a way to get the students to feel more connected to what the purpose behind the helping hands days are. This was one nice

thing about collecting in the fall because it was close to the Thanksgiving and Holiday Drives. Concerns were brought up about how many different types of pajama days and crazy hair days there were and that this might be confusing the kids. Dr. Harmer mentioned that they planned to change the reading rewards to be more reading focused, for example reading by a fake fire in the library.

Book fair – Dana thinks having two people on book fair is best and she needs a shadow. There are many tasks besides the actual fair including, signup genius set-ups, selling gift certificates at grandparents day, and the coin challenge. A proposal was made that the SSHA could save money by using Scholastic dollars for some of gifts to the teachers for purchasing books. In the beginning of the year this is \$10 a teacher.

Yearbook – More members are needed. The co-chair has one more year at Schuylkill. Someone put in their name, but the other co-chair said that for every three or four that say they might be interested only one ends up actually helping, so it would be good to not stop asking for interested people until after a few have raised their hands.

Family Fun – Anna switched from Family Fun to Restaurant nights. Family Fun was two bingos and a movie night.

Spring Fair – Needs a new chair since Warren is busy with VP duties. He made a comprehensive binder to hand off to the new chair. We still have the games he made from last year in storage. A suggestion was made to maybe get high school kids to run spring fair as their school project.

6. Other Business (Cindy)

- a. Girls on the Run/Stride
- b. Alex's Lemonade Stand
- c. Operation Focus

The meeting ended before we got to these topics.