

PTO General Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2011

Begin 7:10 PM

Cheryl Maynard - Welcomes all to last PTO meeting. Thanks parents, teachers, Board. Welcomes Councilman Steve Merolla who has come to talk to with us about questions and concerns. Cheryl mentions that we dedicated books for the library to Steve.

Cheryl briefly explained the Needs Assessment project led to three top tier issues
Safety at Cedar Hill (parking lot and door safety).
Technology
Facility space and our infrastructure at our school.

Steve spoke about the open space fund. This came from when people were developing houses they had to put these funds aside for open spaces. Steve sponsored the bill to add the gym and 4 classrooms years ago. He briefly explained the state funding formula change. He mentioned that there was a bond referendum about 4 years ago. In that bond, which was approved, there is money for various things for schools. There was something in there for Cedar Hill. He suggested asking one of the school committee members to look at the bond referendum and see what it is for. They haven't released the money for the bond. At Scott School, they used bond money for improving the parking lot. Cheryl explained our inexpensive fixes for the parking lot (parents, new painted lines). Possibly a paid crossing guard for that location. Steve suggested coming up with an engineering solution that doesn't involve needing a person. It's going to be hard to hire anyone now, because of the state issue, we are expected to do more with less. A bike path and clearing paths in woods nearby were discussed. The technology need was discussed. One idea someone brought up was that we may be able to lease equipment through a company rather than buy it. Jennifer Mann asked about the division of responsibility between city and school department regarding plowing. Steve suggested calling him or sending him a text at 499-4940 when there is an issue and he will contact someone in the City.

Secretary Report: Minutes from April 11 - accepted. Thank you notes read.

Program Report: Starting to work on the committee chairs for next year. I will list all the chairs needed for next year. It will be in the Highlighter next week. Next year, many chairs will be leaving Cedar Hill. So it would be good to get some parents of younger children involved.

Cheryl mentioned that the Board decided that instead of the spring clean up, we are doing an adopt a spot location, we will choose a spot and supply materials

Jennifer - Books and BBQ went well.

CHAMPS/Fundraising Report: Getting Gorgeous event was very successful. Our first year doing it, we want to do it before the father daughter dance. The photographer was amazing. Will list more in the Highlighter. We raised about \$1500.

Membership Report: Lynn - Dina is working on a resource book that contains all the activities that come home. Resource book will be in the office by the end of the year.

Communications Report: Yearbook is done. It will be handed out most likely Friday, June 17. We ordered 250 so we have some extras. We are going to put together a Shutterfly site.

VOWS Report: The VOWS recipients of the VOWS awards were Lauri Broman and Andrea Combs Olson. They are "retiring" next year, so we need new volunteers. There is a VOWS wine tasting coming up.

Treasurers Report: The budget report doesn't reflect getting Gorgeous and some year-book checks. Cheryl mentioned that the Board would like to change our bylaws so we can do the budget for the following year at the end of the current school year.

Teachers Report: Jan Simas read a note from Mrs. Ruzzo. Mrs. Ruzzo is waiting to see what the new reading series is like and she can better plan what she needs. Jan Teautrault is retiring. We are all sad. This year there won't do a traditional field day, just work with individual classes. Mr. Peltier is out on medical leave. We hope he will be back in two weeks. He's out for surgery.

Needs Assessment Status Report: We are pushing forward with the subcommittee (Technology, Safety and Parking lot, and Facility). If you're interested in participating in any of the committees, please let us know. May 25 as a possible date for the Safety Parking Lot Committee. The needs list is a jumping off point with details. That subcommittee may be doing research on what other schools are doing.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Elections

Co-Presidents - Cheryl Maynard, Jennifer Mann

1st VP - Amy Stein (assistant VP Jennifer Ahearn)

2nd VP - Amy Murphy, Deirdre Weedon

3rd VP - Joe Peltier

Treasurer - Claudine Davenport

Secretary - Deb Langevin

Membership - Dina

Communications - Karen (assistant Communications - Jennifer Buckley)

Unanimous vote - 19 people

Cedar Hill Picnic is to be August 24. Meg Handy and Colleen Smith. We'll also do the book swap. Bring books to the picnic.

Amy Stein - A big thank you to all who have volunteered in the parking lot in the morning. Cheryl thank you to Amy for doing all this.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted on May 21, 2011 by Deirdre Weedon