

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PARENT COUNCIL* MEETING, NOVEMBER 17TH, 5:30 PM

(prepared by Erica Charlesworth, In-Reach Chair)

FYI: These are the highlights of a very info-packed meeting...Draft minutes coming soon. Final minutes are approved at subsequent meetings and only then posted on our website.

Singing Praises: Thanks for all who contributed to our new Backspace!!!!!! \$3500 spent with much more donated in materials, time and money. You know who you are! We all thank you - especially on behalf of our children.

PRETTY PLEASE, IF YOU PLEASE, PULEEEZE

....Humble pleas from our Faculty and Administrator to us Parents....

Be vigilant in supervising your/all children whenever they are not otherwise in the care of their teachers. This includes after school, before school, during meetings, at school events. *ESPECIALLY in the bathrooms where several messy mishaps have lately occurred.*

Be mindful of our PG&E costs. This means, leave lights off whenever possible, dress your child warmly as the heat varies in this building (sweater and socks!). We are heating and lighting more than 1 acre of indoor space. Last month's bill was \$6,000.

Clean up whenever possible. We have fantastic deal on indoor-ONLY weekend janitorial services. The rest is up to us for now. That means outside areas, after PIZZA Day, and anytime we meet at the school if we don't clean it up, it won't be clean.

If you handle any fundraising money, devise a system to ensure that you and one other person are counting the money...and that you are leaving a paper trail. More on this at the committee level soon...

Goals of the Parent Council for this year

- Improve organization and infrastructure (Create and maintain contact information, develop our in-reach committee, promote use of website, coordinate our documentation, create an information binder so pass on to next Chair and Co-Chair, and more....)
- Work with committees. This year lots of sign-ups, few coordinators, hence some missing follow-up. We'll get there.
- Review and Revise Parent Council Bylaws to ensure they are in sync with the recently updated Charter Council bylaws.

(stay tuned for PG minutes for Greater Detail on of these goals.)

Committee Status

- Volunteer Coordinator: Karen Fisk (volunteered since last meeting. Thank you KAREN!)
- Garden and Grounds – Tighe and Summer O-Neil

- Fundraising – Wendy Kaplan
- Green Committee – Stephanie and Brain Ladwig Cooper
- Election Committee – Chris Grettum
- Communications/In-Reach – Erica Charlesworth
- Hospitality – Kelly Munson (volunteered as of last night....Thank you KELLY!)
- Chairs / Leads needed for:
 - Festivals
 - Historian
 - Library
 - Site Maintenance
 - Care and Wellness
 - School Store (aka Mercurius) and T-Shirts.

Other Highlights

- Building Security – This important issue is being addressed....stay tuned.
- New Agenda Format (includes Public Comments) - New format design to insure that rules of order are followed while encouraging maximum participation and sticking to a tight timeline. Includes a place for public comments so if you ever want to come to a Parent Council meeting to address the Council, you can do it (in 3 minutes or less) and your place in the agenda is just after the school verse.
- Treasurers Report – Julie Quinn reported on our finances. As of last night we have approx. \$7500 in the bank. Julie’s goals for this year are to refine our recordkeeping and controls for handling and disbursing money.
- Fundraising – Wendy Kaplan, our new fundraising chair, is moving along with the intent of getting the most out of our time and energy. There is good team of interested parents coming together specifically to raise money for the backspace Capital Campaign. Volunteers are also assembling for grant writing.
- In-Reach – We have three bulletin boards up right now to serve as formal communication venues (rather than massive wallpapering of school walls for important events.)

Wish List

- Can you contribute cleaning supplies and equipment for the Parent Guild. We need a vaccum cleaners, decent brooms, and non-toxic cleaning supplies. For now place these in or just outside the Parent Guild office that is off the Great Room.
- Also, Stacey, our Office Manager, has a wish list for some really basic Care and Wellness supplies that are continually need (like cotton swabs and baggies for making ice packs.)
- Cookies at the Winter Festival – We need 8 dozen per class...Can you help with one or more dozen? Let your Parent Rep know.

*This year we are correctly calling ourselves the Parent Council. The Parent “Guild” actually refers to ALL of us here at the school. That is according to our current by-laws. (THE END)