

Sylvan Park PTO Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2009

Attendance

We had 17 parents and teachers present.

Opening

PTO President Joanne Sowell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Treasurer's Report

Katherine Brown gave a year-to-date update on PTO finances after a couple of fund raisers and other expenses. As of November 10th, we now have approximately \$6000 in the bank. The PTO usually gives each teacher \$100 gift card to spend on class room supplies at the beginning of the school year. Because the PTO budget was a bit tight at the beginning of the year, the teachers were giving \$50 to start the year. Since we now have had a very successful silent auction and good Citipass sales, a motion was made to go ahead and give the teachers their other \$50 now. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Cub Scout Fee

The Cub Scouts are restarting a pack at Sylvan Park. They have asked PTO to be their sponsoring organization and would like the PTO to pay the \$20 registration fee. A motion was made to pay this expense and it passed.

Invest - update and plans for finishing out campaign

Katherine shared an update on Invest. We have raised about \$2500 in actual collections to date. She will now follow up with those who made pledges to remind them to get their money in. We will also be sending out a flyer to encourage donations by the end of the year for tax deduction purposes.

Community Garden - guest speaker

Sean Siple from Good Food for Good People made a presentation to the group about wanting to start working with Sylvan Park School. He shared Good Food's mission to grow local foods to fund education initiatives to raise awareness. This year they are focusing on West Nashville. They currently have one acre in Richland Creek partnering with St. Ann's. It is integrated in their curriculum. He wanted to see if Sylvan Park wanted to have a gardening program. Chelle Baldwin, a Sylvan Park parent, introduced Sean to Mrs. Cheadle. Richland pool scheduled to be demolished. They are looking at the possibility of filling it in and making a garden there. They have gotten endorsement from many neighborhood associations. They would like to include Sylvan Park students and get our endorsement. He also mentioned the possibility of using the garden at Sylvan Park in some capacity. Good Food would need to apply for an Umbrella grant for half time or full time position to care for the gardens. Joanne thanked Sean for his presentation and told him that we would talk it over and get back with him.

Bookfair overview

Ms. Joyce Claassen reported that Bookfair will be November 30 through December 4. The theme is – Destination Bookfair – Reading Around the World. They are working out a schedule and plan to tie it loosely

with December in Our World. They are looking for volunteers. Bookfair will be held in the library this year. They are planning an ethnic potluck dinner for the Friday night finale. More details will be coming soon.

Songwriter's night report/recap

Julie James told the group that Songwriter's Night was a great event. She thanked Jade Novak who donated graphic arts. We had very low expenses and it was a nice parent's night out. We made approximately \$2000 that will be dedicated to the update of the auditorium.

Halloween Dance report

Joanne report that about \$300 was made on this event. Two teachers won prizes for their door decorations.

Prospective Parent Open House information

November 19th from 6:30-8p.m. is the Sylvan Park prospective parent open house. Mrs. Cheadle has asked all teachers to be there. This will give existing parents the opportunity to meet the upper grade teachers.

Update on software and projector purchases

Joanne reported that a work order has been entered for the projectors. Ms. Claassen reported that Bookflix software is being used successfully. Information should have gone home about accessing Bookflix. All login and passwords are on the school's website under Internet Safety for software supplied by Metro. Ms. Claassen offered to send out Bookflix home information again. There were some bandwidth issues in the computer lab but now the cable has been upgraded and that should help. Thinklink has not started because of the technical difficulties but it should be starting soon.

Dad and Family Events

Joanne mentioned that the Be Involved lists included Dad's events. Several people checked this box as an interest area. In the past we have had Family Fun nights where had something at the cafeteria like pot luck dinner and puzzles. We will be sending out something for those willing to run events or solicit ideas for possible Dad's events.

Cheadle Chat - Mrs. Cheadle

Mrs. Cheadle shared that TCAP scores were recently published in the Tennessean. She mentioned that since Sylvan Park is a small, safe school we get a lot of diversity through the lottery. We had 45.8 advanced, 38.2 proficient and 14 need assistance in Math. In Reading, 48.6 were advanced with 37.5 proficient and 14 below. Teachers want to be sure that your child is being challenged to do the best work they can do. Mrs. Cheadle also reported that Preston Taylor homes with Park Ave. Baptist Church are helping with tutoring. In addition, they have now dropped Thinklink down to 2nd grade to help prepare them for TCAP. It has tools to assist teachers see where the kids are and what they may have missed.

Conclusion

Joanne asked if there was any other business. Mrs. Riddle asked if we were still supplying inkjet cartridges for teachers. Joanne told her that we would but we needed the brand and number. She also reminded parent to keep BoxTops Market place in mind when holiday shopping. They give a percentage of purchases back to the school. With no more business, the meeting was adjourned.