



ATTENDEES

Kelly Barker, Mike Houts, Dani Lotton-Barker, James Howe, Christina Howe, Karen Lu-ecke, Amy Hope, Michelayn Agnew, Aline Hoey, Kim Burke, Brandy Erzen, Danyel Bell, Cindy McCoy, Laurie Scallom-Snider, Kelly Jones, Erin Kennedy, Kris Davis, Jackie Stafford, Alee Phillips, Sara Taliaferro, and Scott Cinnamon were in attendance.

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kelly Barker reported that plans for Geography Night are still in progress.

TREASURERS REPORT (please see attachment)

Aline Hoey would like to reach a point where she can submit the budget ahead of time and make it part of the consent agenda.

For teacher wish lists, one way to handle disbursing the money would be to give a set amount for each grade and maybe specials and special education and let faculty decide how to make the orders and share the money. She asked how this might best be accomplished, such as through the purchase of Visa gift cards. If faculty ordered items themselves rather than turning in a wish list and having PTA Board Members place the orders, receipts would need to be gathered and turned in. If we designated a set amount, it would make it easier to manage as a line item in the annual PTA budget. All present agreed to move this to old business for next time.

PRINCIPAL CINNAMON'S REPORT

The water.org fundraiser was a great success and very meaningful for the students. They far exceeded the goal for the fundraiser, which was to collect \$1,000.00. They raised over \$2,300.00!

The Third Grade Music Program was last week and was quite enjoyable. This is worth a mention in the PTA Newsletter.

The Fourth Graders are undergoing their NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) testing right now. These results will be compiled for each elementary grade level tested for all participating schools, so we will not know Cordley students' results. Cordley was the only elementary school in the District that was included this time.

The newly-formed Cordley Student Council had its first meeting last week. This is a new adventure for Principal Cinnamon, since he has not led a student council before. Representative Third through Fifth Graders will meet bimonthly and then report out to the younger grades.



Superintendent Doll is encouraging participation in meetings throughout the district now being held to discuss the bond issue. Cordley will have a bond meeting Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 PM. PTA will provide child care, and Aline Hoey and Jackie Stafford volunteered to set that up. Kelly Jones and Jackie Stafford encouraged everyone present to aggressively recruit volunteers to get out the word, encourage voting, participate in literature drops, and collect donations. They can provide volunteers with talking points and other support. This issue affects every school in the district. All schools will benefit if the bond passes. This bond is critically important.

OLD BUSINESS

FRIENDSHIP/COMPLIMENT EXCHANGE PARTY: Principal Cinnamon reported that staff and faculty are not interested in participating in this event nor in receiving support materials from PTA at this time. Perhaps they might be at some later date.

NEW BUSINESS

FAMILY POTLUCK: There will not be callers or musicians for a Barn Dance this year because of scheduling conflicts. Fiesta Folklorica will perform, and there will be a CD player for music and a dance party afterward. Please bring as much food as you possibly can and spread the word. The Potluck is February 12.

BOOK FAIR: Book Fair is next week. Michaelanne had a sign-up sheet for volunteers. This year's theme is "Story Laboratory". Scholastic sponsors this fundraiser for the school, and Cordley receives 50% of profit in the form of "Scholastic dollars." This allows staff to give out free books to students. Teachers will also have wish lists of books that families can purchase and donate to the respective classrooms.

LANGUAGE AND NATURE CLUBS: The various language instructors are now lined up, and the forms will come out very soon. The languages taught will be Kiswahili, Spanish, Japanese, and Russian.

STAFF MEALS: Parent-Teacher conferences are at the end of next week, and Alee Phillips will send out electronic sign-up sheets for people to volunteer to bring food for the teacher's meals.

MARATHON CLUB: Marathon Club will start up when the weather consistently allows it, probably the end of February. The Marathon Club received three grants recently.



One was from Bill Self's Assists Foundation and covers the cost of a scanner system. Each child will be assigned a lanyard which allows a scanner to register the number of laps each child makes. This will significantly reduce the number of volunteer hours and make tracking easier. Parents can log in to keep track of their child's progress. It will be a much nicer system to pass on to the next coordinator. Marathon Club also got a Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthy Habits for Life grant (\$1,000.00) and a grant from United Way's AmericGroup (\$200.00). This will allow the Club to set up a permanent display board with a mounting strip for affixing the photos of Marathon Club members who have completed their Marathon. Also, the PTA paid for Marathon Club shirts, and the Marathon Club was able to pay the PTA back.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR CORDLEY PTA: As part of our overall organization process, we would like to craft a mission statement. Once we determine as a school what our vision for the school is through our mission statement, that statement can help drive our goals. What can we do for our children that the school perhaps cannot? We currently have a number of community building events (potluck, watermelon feed, etc.), community support efforts (teacher wish lists, holiday families, transportation funds for field trips, etc.), and academic events (nature club, language club, chess club, etc.). It would not mean we plan to eliminate any particular endeavor but rather could prioritize, aid in budget decisions and fundraising decisions. It might help us decide whether or not we charge for Carnival, for example.

This might also help us decide if we want to remain a PTA or switch to a PTO. We thought that PTA membership would give us insurance coverage but discovered that was not the case. Information describing both and explaining differences will be sent out to everyone soon. It was noted that most schools in the area have switched to PTOs. One difference is that PTA lobbys nationally, whereas PTOs have a more local focus. There is a fair amount of work in switching over and registering for a Federal ID for tax purposes and such. Now, all of our PTA dues go to National. Aline Hoey said that it is not a significant amount.

The first step in this process might be to survey our Cordley family community and faculty and staff to see what perceptions are held as to what the organization represents and the direction it might take. We could use Survey Monkey as well as paper forms. The question was raised as to who we would survey.--parents, teachers, students? We might work with classroom volunteers to get responses. It might be helpful to tie the survey to an event to gain more participation, such as the Pancake feed or the music programs. Michelayn Agnew made a motion to form a group and create a questionnaire as the first step in crafting a mission statement. Brandy Ernzen seconded it.



Danyel Bell, Kelly Barker, and Brandy Erzen volunteered to work with Sara Taliaferro on this.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Book Fair-February 11 through 15
- Family Potluck-February 12
- Staff Meals for Parent/Teacher Conferences-February 13-14
- Fourth Grade Music Program-February 26
- PTA Meeting-March 12 at 7:00 PM
- Pancake Feed and Parents Read to Children-March 15

ITEMS TO CARRY FORWARD: Aline will have three different proposals for how to disburse money for Teacher Wish Lists to send out ahead of the next meeting. Staff will be asked about their preferences.

Danyel Bell made a motion to adjourn, and Jackie Stafford seconded.