

1. President's Report: a. report from Senator Pinsky meeting,

Get Active Night - went very well. Good turn out

New books should have come home with students today - as we decided to replace the RIF program

Student directory is in the printing stage - all that is left is to determine how to mail them. Looking forward to doing it again next year - thanks to Kirsten.

b. upcoming events Mar. 11 - YoJo - will give two performances. Program for reading for the younger kids, and 3-6 program will be 'Acing the test" - test taking strategies.

Apr. 12 – Spring Fair - Sat - 10 - 2

Need volunteers to work shifts, need donations for the silent auction. Donations of cakes for the cake walk. Need help applying labels to spring fair flyers. Contact Amy Hansen

Silent auction has been gaining momentum over the years. Please approach local merchants that you patronize and ask - many will say yes.

May 5-10 – Teacher Appreciation

Would be nice for each child to send in thank you note to teachers - free and very nice.

May 14 – Multicultural Dinner - 6pm

March 12 - Security processing Berwyn Heights 7:30 pm

Possible speakers for April May June PTA meetings: Nutritionist, County Library person could speak on Internet safety

2. Treasurer's Report

Jan/Feb reports distributed to attendees.

Paid our sales taxes in Jan

Submitted CFC application - new addition to fundraising - will try to publicize next year in time for next years campaign

Current balance \$8351.00

No questions 3. Principal's Report

ACE teacher award - staff selected Ms.Dara CASE - will be recognized next Monday at the awards ceremony. comment - John Gardner - Schedule for next Monday ceremony takes place at the municipal building 7:30 reception , 8 pm city council meeting opens and ACE awards are presented. In the newsletter upcoming will be TAG information.

Looking for parent or community member to type up Honor Roll names for the local papers.

Q: How are the lists presented to typist - and when?

A: Names are sent in e-mail.

Q: Do students need clearance for names?

A: Don't think so - will check.

Kindergarten had a field trip - parents can chaperone for grade levels other than your own children. Always looking for chaperones.

Q: How do you know when a class has a field trip coming up?

A: Asking teachers to reach out. Can we post on the list serv?

New lunch tables have arrived. County paid for them. Much more room. Attached benches. Easier for custodians. County agreed to purchase two more. Lost and found items are donated after awhile. A notification will be put in the newsletter before donation.

Ms. Behe and Mr. Novick have worked at getting a mentoring program into this

school. 15 students come every Friday morning to mentor for an hour. U of MD is also going to participate.

Spring break is coming up - 14th is grading day for teachers.

Trying to get a date for basketball game with Greenbelt Middle School (after MSA)

Need volunteer to help organize a math resource room.

Q: Does the school disinfect rooms during the high flu season?

A: Yes - there is a process. The nurse would know if a parent calls and would let me know. Extra cleaning would be done. Please report to the nurse or myself

Q: Last year there was a flu vaccine - will there be one this year?

A: No - I have not seen anything so far this year. Can ask the nurse to look into that.

Q: Sons teacher sent home a postcard and he loved it thank you.

A: We are also encouraging students to keep classrooms clean with the golden trash can award.

Q: Who won the pennies to patients?

A: Wrapping up the counting - have some stragglers

4. Formation of Nominating Committee for next year's PTA board (nominations to be announced at the April meeting; elections at the May meeting)

Two year term limits. Alan is the only member who needs to be replaced. Looking for people to serve.

Nominations committee needs to consist of around 3 people to help. Needs to be

formed by next months meeting.

If people want to be on the board, please say so. Talk to existing board members to get an idea of job.

5. Update on after-school classes

We were running after school Spanish class. First session went very well, but did not have enough signed up this session so it was cancelled.

Comments?

Min age was 6... why the age limitation?

We will attempt to do another one. We should aim to get flyers out sooner and see if that helps with enrollment.

Are those classes open to the public? Yes.

Is having two age groups in one session an option? They did not want to have such a broad range of age in one class.

6. Update on lunch/recess/snack time issues

Ms Seidel - Always trying to train and retrain monitors. We have snack in Kindergarten in afternoon.

Many of us were interested in having recess before lunch to calm them.. Is there any chance for this to happen if we all agree on

Master schedule dictated this. May cause logistical issues.

Wouldn't it mean just swapping lunch and recess?

We can definitely consider it? Have to know what the mandated teaching minutes. Instructional schedule is created first and lunch/recess are put in around that.

comment: My son is now having lunch , going back to class, then having recess.

this was done to separate younger kids from 6th graders.

Another issue: Monitors may not have the same training as teachers in how to deal with children and talk to them.. is there anything we can do to help the child who is OK in classroom, but having difficulties on the playground and to train the playground lunch monitors? The tone gets rather harsh towards the children at lunch/recess.

- Ongoing training for monitors. But you are right, teachers have much more training. Monitors were brought in to give teachers more time for planning. we do rotate teachers in with the monitors. This would be a great place for parents to volunteer. Many schools are the same. Children do respond differently to the monitor - as they are not with the children all day and makes it harder to manage - the kids are wanting to run and play.

How do I approach the monitor? Just be there and helping will help a lot. Ideally would be nice to have one grade level at lunch and one at recess. Lower the noise level.

I volunteer on Wed and eat lunch with my son. One difference between this and last years lunch is that they do not have a microphone - the monitors sort of have to yell just to be heard - though it may come across differently... some monitors are actually yelling "Shut up!"

That is not acceptable language -

Group punishment is also occurring - not sending the right message

Can we give the monitors tools to reward the children? We have tried to put those tools in place, but at times they feel it is just one more thing for them to do.

Is there a standardized way of discipline in certain situations? Yes - there is a county code of conduct, handbook is given, and training in procedures. But these things are not being followed. We know this is an issue that needs to be resolved.

Please bring up specific questions and concerns with the teacher. We find often we are the last to know about kids getting in trouble.

There is a lemon form and a county form that need to be filled out if there is an event.

Can parents review the lemon form? Parents are supposed to get a phone call and a copy.

Change in menu -

Sometimes menu does not match what's on the plate? Sometimes grades different grades get different food. This happens a lot.

Will check to make sure it's not the case that we just aren't getting what we ordered.

Teachers take a lunch count in the morning to aide what the kitchen prepares

Karen is head of cafeteria - please contact her to voice concerns.

7. Discussion on fundraising

Cherrydale fundraiser:

Started discussion against fundraiser requiring to sell 7 items to participate in moon bounce. Will review comments made online . Bottom line is that I don't like what includes/excludes children. I like inclusion.

{...reads from emails ...}

Two reasons for fund raisers - this school does not get the money it needs, small portion going towards the chorus. As a PTA we thrive on fundraisers - so what CAN we do and be supported?

AVON fundraiser recommended

Suggestion that the company cancel the party and donate the money to school.

Tina put together long list of fundraiser ideas collected from the internet (posted on list serv)

There a lot of things we can do, lets discuss what we like don't like. Ms Seidel was so good in this conversation in explaining the need and in looking for new alternatives.

Seidel - there a lot of guidelines. As we continue to pursue fundraisers we need to recognize there is a process to follow. You have to define how the money gets used. We are not title one and do not get the title one funds. Fundraisers are always volunteer.

Fundraisers have to benefit the whole school.

Ms Behe, Mr Novick, ms case, mr washington are all on the fundraiser committee. Who would the point of contact be with new ideas? Ms Behe.

Perhaps we could have PTA committee to determine fundraisers to run. We can run fundraisers the school cannot. Can the PTA buy things for the school through fundraisers that the school cannot do? Yes - teaching School and teaching materials. we could (school staff) come up with specific wish items.

Concern is that if the budget is less than year we might have a list *this* long of items.

PTA could send a letter encouraging parents

can buy -

awards, publicity, enrichment programs, committee expenses, cultural arts, family involvement, field trips directly related to curriculum, fundraiser costs, u=guest speakers, refreshments, insurance, leadership training, legislative, membership supplies, memorials, needy student assistance, parent workshops, promotional items, newsletters, office equipment, pubs, scholarships,

cannot - pay for - basic school supplies, capitol improvements, other charities, school personnel, janitorial supplies, janitorial equipment, equipment, school office equipment, teacher development, technology.

Amy - a little history... we had this conversation with miss Curl. There was an event similar to Cherrydale - I don't want anything in this - i get upset when my child is challenged to sell. As long as there is no 'you will miss something big' then sell what you need to sell.

We are out of time. Please sign up for fundraising committee. We can continue discussion online.

Upcoming events: Mar. 11 - YoJo Apr. 12 – Spring Fair May 5-10 –
Teacher Appreciation May 14 – Multicultural Dinner