

Neil Cummins PTA

[Home](#)

Minutes from "General Membership Meeting" on 08/30/2007 - 8:20am

Fri, 10/12/2007 - 10:21am — Sheri Mowbray

Minutes for: General Membership Meeting *from* 08/30/2007 - 8:20am *to* 08/30/2007 - 9:50am

Attendees:

Neil Cummins PTA

Minutes of General Membership Meeting

Thursday August 30, 2007, 8:20a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Neil Cummins Staff Room

Attendees:

Laura Anderson, Co-President; Catherine Guthrie, Co-President; Julia Ritter, Vice President; Andrea Pierpont, Vice President; Pam Bittner, Vice President; Linda Henn, Vice President; Carolyn Caindec, Vice President; Sheri Mowbray, Secretary; Ann Trunko, Treasurer; Debbie Arnowitz, Financial Secretary; Kris Wade, Historian; Susan Christman, Parliamentarian; Marilyn Clark, Principal; Michelle Walker, Vice Principal; Lisa Poole; Lynn Werner; Tasmin Pesso; Jenny Tippett; Dominique Harroch; Cheryl Pole; Jennifer O'Shaughnessy; Margot Segal; Kristen Huang; Laurie Dubin; Marlene Michaels; Maridel Barr; Cindy Traverso; Julie Muller; Shiva Nazarizadeh; Dany Phillippe; Dorian Carlisle; Deb Blum.

Meeting Notes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:22 a.m. by Co-President Laura Anderson. She thanked everyone for coming and introduced the entire board. Laura also noted that once approved, minutes from GM meetings are posted on the <http://www.nc-pta.org/> website.

Approval of Minutes

Andrea Pierpont moved that the membership approve the minutes from the May 9th meeting. Susan Christman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Principal's Report

Marilyn Clark welcomed everyone back. She noted that as of yesterday, 705 students are enrolled at Neil Cummins. They opened a new

third grade, as third grade is larger than expected and kindergarten is smaller (7 classes versus 9 last year). She is very excited about the great new staff that has been hired this year, all of whom have teaching experience. She is also excited about Michelle Walker who has "hit the ground running". It turned out that Chad was not able to go on his sailing adventure due to the downturn in the real estate market so he is now in the Ross Valley District. Michelle thanked the PTA for the new playground balls.

Michelle Walker announced that on September 11th the Support Services meeting will be held at 7pm. They will cover the whole spectrum from GATE to the SST process, etc. She announced that the balls are in the classrooms and are color coded. She would love to get someone's used pool skimmer to retrieve balls that fall into the creek. She said that the campus cleanup day was light on attendance but heavy on accomplishments, especially cleaning the K area.

Treasurer's Report

Ann Trunko reported that we ended last school year with \$36,835. This number will go up a bit when some additional receivables come in. Ann reviewed the 2007-08 budget. We are projecting \$64,220 in income and \$86,214 in expenses. That will still leave money in the budget for things that come up during the year. The biggest fundraiser the PTA does is the lunch program. This year, with the change in the program, instead of bringing in \$70,000, we are projecting \$38,515 in net income. We raised the price of lunches to cover costs but profits will be way down. Pizza day is our big money maker, profit-wise. The PTA also has to pay to subsidize free-and-reduced lunch kids. Also, the district will be assessing us for the cost of the paperwork they do for our lunch program. It will cost us 4.64% of total revenue which will amount to somewhere between \$10,000-\$12,000. The Hawk Courtyard has been paid for with a \$50,980 check to the district. The \$980 was leftover from the 4th grade gift and they wanted it to be used for the project. The board also approved an additional \$1,000 to cover extra costs that were incurred for the project.

Laurie Dubin moved that we approve the 2007-08 budget. Kris Wade seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ann presented the list of PTA 2007-08 Events and Activities for approval and release of funds for August through January. Carolyn Caindec moved that we approve the PTA 2007-08 Events and Activities and release funds for items August through January. Tasmin Pesso seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Funds released for:

Campus Improvement - Gardening	\$1,000
Campus Improvement - Other	\$9,000
District Breakfast	\$175
Memberships	\$400
New Parent Welcome	\$200
Officer Supplies	\$600
Spirit Wear	\$10,000

Coupon Book	\$600
Welcome Coffee	\$450
Art Portable Supplies	\$1,000
Hospitality - Other	\$500
Eco-Hawks	\$1,550
Assemblies	\$500
Bank Charges	\$500
Classroom Equipment	\$10,000
Field Trips	\$23,071
Fine Arts Instruction	\$11,600
Health & Safety Support	\$550
Instructional Supplies	\$15,400
Lunch Program	\$178,830
Parent Education	\$3,000
Scholarships	\$2,550
Substitute for Teacher Rep	\$945
Walk & Roll Program Donation	\$300
Wrapping Paper Sale	\$10,000
Yearbook	\$6,000
Hoedown	\$800
Insurance and Dues	\$2,600
Holiday Store	\$300
Music Concerts (funding)	\$600
Staff Appreciation	\$2,500
Science Night (funding)	\$1,073
Spellathon	\$600

PTA Business

General Membership Meeting Schedule (<http://www.nc-pta.org/>)

The schedule for all PTA meetings is posted in the volunteer office and on the website. Meetings will be held either at 8:20am in the Staff Room or at 7pm in the Music Room alternating times to accommodate working parents' schedules.

District Safety Representative

Julia Ritter was appointed as the District Safety representative. She will attend quarterly meetings to make sure we are up to date on all safety standards and in compliance.

Open Committee Positions, Welcome Coffee, Membership

Carolyn Caindec reported that there are some positions still open that need to be filled. These include Sign Changers, a Spirit Wear co-chair and Spirit Wear sellers, as well as lunch volunteers for Tuesdays and Fridays. Carolyn also reminded everyone that the volunteer coupon book is coming in next week's backpack mail and will have many volunteer opportunities listed. She also talked about the membership drive. Julie Muller is in charge of membership this year. Everyone who becomes a member will be automatically registered to win a full trimester of hot lunch for one child! There is no obligation of volunteer commitment for joining the PTA. There is still a recommended \$20 membership contribution.

Backpack Mail, Website

Linda Henn thanked everyone who came to help do the initial backpack mail on Monday. She is working hard to get away from so much paper and trying to direct more to the website and to electronic communications in general. It all depends on technology. Backpack mail will be streamlined by October so each family will get just one set, going to the youngest child. The goal is for everything to eventually be completely electronic.

Hawk Courtyard, Comfort Kits, Lost & Found

Julia reported that we have a full supply of emergency food including energy bars, bottled water and other supplies in the event that kids need to remain at school for up to three days. All classrooms also have an emergency backpack with first aid supplies, flashlights, etc. Julia also introduced the "Comfort Kit" that all parents will be asked to provide for their children, pending teacher approval. It will be enclosed in a quart-sized Ziploc bag and include a sealed non-perishable snack, a sealed drink, a picture and a note. They are working on taking peanuts out of the emergency supplies. They will also be selling back the inventory at the end of the year to parents, prior to expiration dates.

The district purchased a new emergency communications system called Connect-Ed. It will be up to speed very shortly and will replace both the emergency phone trees and the absentee line. This will allow for an automated message to go out simultaneously to everyone in the event of an emergency.

A discussion about the current emergency procedures followed.

Julia also mentioned the Lost and Found crew and recommended that parents label their kids' clothes with their name so that the Lost & Found team can return items to the children's classroom.

Wrapping Paper Sales, Spirit Wear

Pam Bittner announced that wrapping paper sales will begin Sept. 17 and last for three weeks. The wrapping paper sale benefits the fifth grade outdoor education trip. She also said that she needs a Spirit Wear co-chair.

Parent Ed, Hoedown, Drama

Andrea Pierpont acknowledged Lynn Werner and Margot Segal who are spearheading the parent Ed program and have put together a great series of speakers for this year. There will be 3 evening speakers. There is also a monthly newsletter called Firm, Fair & Consistent that comes out in backpack mail. There is a whole section of parenting books available for check-out in the library. The Hoedown is 10/6 and being led by Jamie Bueman. The D+ Dads are gearing up. They are looking for volunteers. The event will be from 3p-7p. The Drama program will begin in January and be lead by Nancy Wilson. The play will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and will include third and fourth graders only.

Hawk Courtyard Presentation

Laura gave some background on the development of the project. It turned out beautifully but required an awful lot of work. She gave a special thank you to Julia Ritter without whom she and many others said that the project would never have been done. She was given a special gift for going way above and beyond the call of duty. Julia then thanked Chris Coffey, landscape contractor, Robin Moller, landscape architect and Wolf Gutscher, district facilities manager. She expressed deep gratitude to each of them and presented each of them with a gift.

Lunch Program

Jenny Tippet said that the new program is off to a great start with 50 sign-ups the first day! She said about 30% signed up online. Most of the sign-ups did include pizza day, which will not be a Good Earth day - Stefano's will still be providing pizza that day. There has been a little confusion that she is working on. Jackie Grandy is in charge of volunteers and Jen Newbury is also very involved. She also mentioned that we had to change the program this year because the volume had gotten too great and also Paradise Foods, our main vendor, discontinued their school lunch program for this year. Cathie thanked Jenny for all her hard work. She then announced that vendor contracts must be approved.

Pam Bittner moved that we approve the contracts with Good Earth and Stefano's. Andrea Pierpont seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Additional Business

Susan spoke about Eco Hawks and announced that Cheryl Pole is the point person. They have a number of programs scheduled for this year including Cancel a Car, recycling, new hot lunch, Party Packs (re-usable stuff for class parties), Eco Hawks products, Earth Day, etc. She also said they would be providing EcoTips in the pink weekly.

Marilyn commended the PTA for being so visionary. She gave us a pat on the back!

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Mowbray

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments [Event](#)

2007-08

Neil Cummins Elementary School programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability.