

Sandburg Middle School
PTA Meeting
November 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by PTA President Anna Diefendorf.

Welcome

Anna Welcomed those present.

Minutes

A motion was made and it was voted on to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Budget

The budget shows a current balance of \$9, 845.52. There are 2 expenditures outstanding. The treasurer's report was adopted.

President's Report

The on-line community is ready to launch with invites. There will be a PTA Bake Sale @ the Touch Base on 11/11 from 12-3. The PTA will be selling Stadium chairs \$20 and stainless steel water bottles \$10 (with a blue paw print). 50% of the profit from these sales will benefit the PTA. Orders can be placed on-line.

Committee Chair Reports

*Career day, 11/4/09, went wonderfully. Everything went smoothly and the total budget was \$70.63.

*Sue Genuario sent an e-mail for the membership Re: the concerns over the proposed elimination of the elementary school band and strings programs. There will be a rally Saturday 11/14/09 @ Sherwood Hall Library before the 10 am community dialogue scheduled there.

*Mr. LaBrie came to the membership to present some information Re: the music departments. He stated some facts about elementary band and strings programs including that over 24,000 elementary students (about 70%) participated in these music programs. There are approximately 116 elementary band and strings teachers. More than 1/2 (over 600) participate in band and strings here at CSMS. There is a program that allows lower income students to rent instruments for school year usage. The website www.faceadvocacy.org provides more information about these helpful programs.

Principal's Report

Upcoming Events:

11/11 Touch Base and E-Cart Assessment Demonstration

11/19 No late buses

11/25 Student's dismiss @ 12:45pm

11/26-27 Thanksgiving Holidays, No School

Ms. Eaton stated that for the FY 2010-2011 FCPS budget that \$176 million in cuts need to be made. There is more information available on the FCPS website under budget. Community dialogues are scheduled 11/14 @ Sherwood Hall Library and 12/02 @ Hayfield for input to be heard. Ms Eaton touched upon the survey results 8th graders took last year and handed out the results showing percentages of middle schoolers in Fairfax County and the challenges facing students, parents and educators in respect to the data. Ms. Eaton also handed out a CSMS School Plan that shows commitments to the school community. Ms. Eaton stated that absences had increased over that past few weeks, but now there seems to be a leveling off. Hand sanitizer was purchased by the PTA and is being used throughout the school. Also a large # of fights between female students has occurred. A concern for the staff is the large # of students that rush to watch the fights when they start. Education for those students is underway.

Other Business

*Rally @ 9:30am 11/14 @ Sherwood Hall Library to support elementary school band and music programs and campaign against the elimination of these programs before the community dialogue.

*There is a Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council that we will send 1-2 members to meetings RE: the FCPS proposed budget.

*Creation of a Budget Task Force to promote letter writing to school board members Re: FCPS proposed budget cuts

*Mr. LaBrie thanked the PTA for the money for the commissioned piece of music for the 25th anniversary of CSMS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by Jennifer Bowen, PTA Secretary