

## **PTA Board of Directors Meeting**

June 1, 2017

Called to order by Kristina at 9:12 a.m.

Allyson Fleugel made a motion to approve the April BOD PTA meeting minutes posted on the PTA's website, Rebecca DeGioia seconded, and all were in favor.

This meeting started with parents' concern about lunchroom policies and Adrienne Rupinta shared her concern she wrote on the parents of CES FB page. Adrienne and many other parents, were concerned with 2nd grade being punished on a Friday, with a silent lunch the following Monday. The day of the meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will sit boy/girl/boy because it was not quiet enough. First, Adrienne said she was sorry that she upset more teachers and apologized for making a comment relating the teachers being "like Nazis."

She expressed parents' concerns which are: this is students' time to talk and socialize; that there seems to be different systems by different teachers assigned the lunchroom each day; some are more yellers in the microphone than others; don't like punishing the whole grade for some who can't control themselves. Adrienne believes that parents that have children with behavioral issues should come in for a visit at lunchtime. Adrienne has had children at CES for eight years and says it is meaner every year with more yelling in the microphone. She suggests there are ways to counteract the "over crowded school" by using parent volunteers for each table.

Mrs. Hilliard's response: she understood the quiet lunch was for eight minutes rather than 25 minutes, but if a parent was there and had a different view she would like to hear from them. She said she isn't on Facebook nor at the school every day, so she needs a call or an email to address situations like this. She said there always is a silent last five minutes for all grades during clean up for safety reasons. As with other concerns about noise in the cafeteria, there is concern for the safety of the students and the teachers being able to hear if there is an emergency. Mrs. Hilliard would prefer to hear parent concerns by a phone call or email so she can address the situation and find out the issues.

Leadership team has been announced and will be meeting on Tuesday to discuss issues such as this, as well as trying to give the kids more recess. Some students eat faster and it would be nice to be able to dismiss those students early. But she does not want other students to not eat lunch or throw out some of their lunch to get out early. Also, would need staff watching the early dismissal from the lunchroom. Three grades go to lunch before recess but because of logistics all classes can't have recess before lunch. Mrs. Hilliard can tell which grades are in the cafeteria and are usually the ones that have not had recess yet (including the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade that doesn't have recess for an hour after their lunch).

Adrienne: The Middle School can have a snack for the late lunches. Mrs. Hilliard said next year 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will have a snack.

Rebecca: How do we handle the students who just can't control themselves during lunch?

Mrs. Hilliard: They get a "problem solving paper" to take home or may be moved to the end of the table. There are three adults per side of the cafeteria unless someone is out.

Rebecca: We used to have parent volunteers like there is a grandpa that helps in 1<sup>st</sup> grade because he knows they need help (even though he doesn't have a grandchild in 1<sup>st</sup> grade). The volunteer focus was on K & 1<sup>st</sup> to help, rather than older kids who parents would feel less comfortable to discipline.

Adrienne: Mr. B (former PE teacher) used to get their attention by asking "what was the best part of your day" or asking trivia questions.

Kristina: There is a different level of respect from some teachers from the microphone. Obviously there are different personalities working lunch duty.

Adrienne: Seems like there is just a threat of silence.

Mrs. Hilliard: It gets quiet when I come into the cafeteria so I can't judge.

Adrienne: Didn't there used to be a thermometer used?

Mrs. Hilliard: Some parents felt this was punitive. The administration liked it as they got to have extra recess with these students.

Rebecca: Are Star Bucks used?

Mrs. Hilliard: When they get back to their classroom they sometimes do.

Kristina: Or they get it for being the first five to raise their hand and they get the Star Bucks then.

Rebecca: A letter from Katie Silver suggested ideas. One very feasible one is having a stoplight with red, yellow, and green lights to indicate the noise level. Other ideas were incentives or an outside pavilion (or the idea they can eat outside that day—but would take staff out of the cafeteria).

Mrs. Hilliard: Yeah, the stoplight would be good. PBI schools have success using them.

Kristina: So if the PTA bought two you would use them? We can do that.

Stacey: Maybe a re-direct method like trivia cards to focus on something different. Some kids don't care about positive incentives or negative consequences, but the whole grade doesn't get a reward for just a few not acting right.

Kristina: So our second issue on FB is 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion with parents upset they cannot bring siblings and use one of their four allotted tickets for their other children.

Mrs. Hilliard: The invitation specifies adults only and only four tickets. We have 219 5<sup>th</sup> graders with 700 chairs, which is over our capacity of 600.

Kristina: But if they use the tickets for their children it doesn't add to the total. Also, some parents can't go because of younger children or one of the spouses has to stay home with them. Parents should realize they have to keep the younger children contained or leave if they are noisy.

Rebecca: I don't think these parents realize that 100 more kids raises the volume and all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are doing is sitting in a chair.

Mrs. Hilliard: This year the 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be receiving their rewards during the ceremony. I would be willing to compromise. Our leadership team will be meeting on Tuesday to decide what events siblings can attend next year.

Kristina: Similarly some parents haven't been able to go to award assemblies.

Mrs. Hilliard: The leadership team will also discuss Responsibility Club, which Mrs. Hilliard doesn't agree with, especially when they get punished twice (for late assignments and missing recess time). She said she thinks they will eliminate RC. As for Race for Education she needs to check with Kevin whether we can use first name, last initial, and teacher name (she had approval for first name and teacher but not last initial). She will email Kevin today for approval.

Before Mrs. Hilliard had to leave she thanked everyone for the appreciation luncheon, is looking forward to the Star Spangled Celebration, wants to meet with the new board and plan the calendar. She said it has been an exciting year with winning the Blue Ribbon School, FCPS teacher of the year Karima, Kelli Smith award from the Washington Post, and that CES has been everywhere. She hopes to figure out how to have more recess time with either extension or a 10 minute break as she can prove to her director recess is helpful academically. Last newsletter will go out today with staff information.

### **Swearing in 2017-2018 Executive Board Elections by Kristina Strait:**

Kelly Scholz – President (not able to be present but was sworn in during the Executive Board meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>)

Nazarene Dickens – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Amy Pontius – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Stacey Donaldson – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

Tracy Hayat – Secretary

Alanna Aloï – Treasurer

Kristina thanked them all for being willing to serve.

**Treasurer Report:** The carry over is \$12,886.46 and cash on hand is \$19,068.80. Some changes were in membership amount, money coming in from silent auction, operating expenses (used for paper and cafeteria gloves), expenses for Star Spangled Celebration, staff appreciation came in under budget.

**Field Day:** question about if a sign up had gone out and Kristina will re-post it on FB.

Kristina: We budgeted \$1800 for Field Day (usually do an activity for the kids) and this year they only used \$300 for their "Salute to Responders" (they have invited

police, military, fire responders held on the big field) and Mrs. Lohr's family are entertainers and will do stand up acts (will use their great sound system).

**Star Spangled Banner:** Anna told us to please come, today is the last day to get tickets before the event, and there will be a few new food and activities offered this year. The sign up is filling up except for color hair spray, but will just shut down activities not staffed.

Question about using High School students for volunteer hours:

Rebecca: Hawk News puts volunteer opportunities on their send outs and we could probably contact the main office for future volunteer opportunities.

Kristina: Wouldn't suggest using Middle School students as they are too close to the ES student age.

Rebecca: Also answered the question about having the community come to the Star Spangled Celebration by saying that as the school got so large it became a CES family event only and insurance was only for CES community.

Kristina: Explained to those new that next year the hope was to do "My Fun Run" which would be online (they take only 10% of the donation for online money) but cash and check would be accepted too. This program will eliminate hundreds of hours and cost of printing and stamps to mail donation sheets. It would run like Jump for Heart, so the collection would be the day of the "Race Day."

Kristina welcomed the New Executive Board Members and told them that the administration was great and easy to work with and hopes they will find the same to be true. Mrs. Hilliard prefers one person to deal with (the PTA President so she knows it has been approved) so the board should send things to Kelly who would then forward things on to Mrs. Hilliard. Blaire has been great getting our newsletter to Mrs. Hilliard two weeks early (as with all things we need to get approved or to go out in a Find Out First).

Kristina then thanked her board members and said it has been fun.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m., Nazarene approved motion to adjourn.