

PTO General Meeting Minutes, 9/23/15

Attending: Jennifer Woodman, Jenn Middleton, Connie Saxby, Sarah Ladiges, Stephanie Eshuis, Megan Blomquist, Michelle McShane, Courtney McCready, Brandi Bock, Melissa Chi, Jenny Anderberg, Hawk Cramer, Brooke Whalen-Robinson, and approximately 5 parents

Call to Order: 6:37 pm by Jen W., seconded by Sarah L.

Review Agenda/Minutes - Hawk C. moved to approve minutes from the June 9, 2015 General Meeting., seconded by Jenn M.; minutes were approved unanimously.

Introduction – Jen W. explained the mission and function of the PTO and Board members introduced themselves.

Principal's Report

Hawk C. reported that the roof replacement and related work that was done over the summer had been completed and that a portable classroom had been located behind the gym. In the coming year changes will be made to the pick up/drop off area and parking lots to better facilitate the flow of traffic and improve safety.

Full day kindergarten has begun after extensive training on the new assessment system to be used for incoming kindergarten students. A week-long kindergarten Jump Start program was held at the end of August, which gave students and families a chance to become familiar with Cedar Way and allowed teachers to begin their assessments.

This year's school improvement focus is on student and family engagement. An example of increased parent engagement was the inclusion of a parent portion of the kindergarten Jump Start program, which helped create a sense of community. An example for improving student engagement would be getting to know each student's strengths, background, and interests to better tailor lessons and activities.

Finally, Hawk reported that there are 15 new staff members at Cedar Way this year, which includes 10 classroom teachers, an assistant principal, and 4 para-educators.

Communications – Jen W. outlined the various ways in which the PTO communicates with parents, which include the calendar on the reader board, the welcome packet at the beginning of the school year, monthly newsletters, the PTO website (currently being updated), weekly emails, robo calls, the PTO Facebook page, and the PTO suggestion box.

PTO Activities & Fundraisers – Board members provided basic information about each of the various events, activities, fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities that are put on by the PTO throughout the school year. These include monthly PTO meetings; after school enrichment classes (sports, performing arts, Spanish, Smart with Art, Bricks 4 Kids); sale of Cedar Way logo wear; Skate Nights at Lynnwood Bowl and Skate (first one on Sept. 25 from 5-7 pm); Movie Nights in the Eagle's Nest; Dining for Dollars at the Red Onion (scheduled for March 22, 2016); Seattle Sounders Night (Oct. 25); Harvest Fest (October 30); class field trips; assemblies, including school-wide Pacific Science Center assembly; Box Tops; Directory; Wreath Sales (early November); Green Team; Winterfest; Read-a-thon (late Feb/early March); Book Fair; author events; spring clean-up and planting; Staff Appreciation Week (1st week of May); 5K Fun Run in connection with Tour de Terrace (late July).

Treasurer's Report

Jenn M. passed out copies of the straw budget, which will be subject to approval at the October meeting. She explained that the PTO's current finances will cover the activities and expenses that have been planned and budgeted for this year, and that fundraising done during this school year will be used to fund next year's activities and events.

Call to Adjourn: 7:42 pm by Jen W., seconded by Sarah L.