

# Cunniff School PTO Meeting

December 4, 2018

## Attendance

Lee Haley, PTO Co-President  
Milton Contreras, PTO Co-President  
Jen Nicholson, Secretary  
Tina Brisson, Co-Treasurer  
Carrie Holland, Co-Treasurer  
Mena Ciarlone, Cunniff Principal  
Amy Patel, Cunniff Occupational Therapist  
Georgia Santander  
Will Stirling  
Jackie Airasian  
Cara Mia Bruncati  
Lauren Stefano  
Julie Weeden

## Guest Speaker – Amy Patel (Cunniff OT)

Ms. Patel presented on the importance of flexible seating and the benefits of a variety of different seating options. Flexible seating provides high energy students an outlet to release surplus energy while still attending. At the same time, they provide sedentary students sensory input to increase arousal levels. Different options she discussed include wobble cushions (which we do have at the Cunniff) are priced at \$14.99 a piece. They can be used on the floor or seats and are great for all elementary ages. Wobble stools promote core muscles and endurance for grades 1-5 and are priced at \$44.99 a piece. Furniture risers allow for customization and help students obtain the optimal position for writing. They also allow students the choice to sit or stand and are priced at \$74.99 for a 16 pack. Scoop chairs (\$39.90 for a pack of 6) are an example of what we do not have at the Cunniff, but more would still be helpful. They are great for use on the rug. Cube chairs are especially helpful for younger students who have a harder time attending on the rug (\$161.21 for a set of 4). Theraband is an exercising band that allows for students to seek movement in an allocated spot (desk or table) and are similar to bands prescribed by doctors (\$20.10 for a 6-yard roll as opposed to purchasing individual bands). A rocker chair is the size of a standard K-1 chair and helps provide vestibular input while sitting. They are the most expensive and priced at \$106.88 each. Ms. Patel created a wish list of options. Most of her services are provided in classrooms and many students with IEPs and 504s have these types of seating mandated, but they can benefit general education students. We will wait until we get our final totals from the Fun Run and Book Fair (our two largest fundraisers) and discuss what options we can fund at our next meeting.

## **Principal's Update**

Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. Mena noted how many students she has seen reading books in the cafeteria during lunch. It was a great experience seeing students being so excited about reading and buying books as opposed to toys. Change to the morning drop off has stopped the bottle necking in hallways and helped with congestion during drop off. Classes have also been starting promptly at 8:15 as a result. She also gave a reminder about the importance of parents not using the staff parking lot at drop off. Lastly, she reported on the winter concerts and the enrichment jazz performances that are coming next week (separate shows for grades Pre-K to 2 and then 3-5).

## **Upcoming Events**

Winter Social – February 8 (Carm Bruncati) Lee plans to reserve the building once we have purchased our insurance.

Picture retake is scheduled for December 14. Discussion about whether or not to move Picture Day earlier in the year. More care needs to be taken for class photos (taking the time to space out students evenly and by height and try to ensure that the class is in sync).

## **New Business**

New sign for front of school was discussed last month. Lee found a basic digital runner online that could be helpful for customized messages and reminders. It is worth considering if the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class would like to make it their class gift since they have some money in reserves. Julie will talk with Erin.

Liability insurance is required for us to use the building for PTO events. Hosmer gave us their policy information and ours came in at \$370 effective for 12 months. The Halloween Party now that we sell tickets will move than cover the insurance policy itself.

## **Fundraisers**

Box Top Contest – ongoing and Lauren reported that a lot have come in recently and that March may be a good time to do a contest since not a lot for the PTO is going on then.

Cunniff School Discount Cards – Karyn Ramshaw approached Lee with this idea and we would go to businesses and negotiate with them for a discount to use associated with the card (as opposed to using a company that takes care of it and takes a cut). If we made the cards ourselves (and laminated them), it would only be the cost of the paper and laminated supplies. Getting the cards printed like a credit card would not be as more cost effective. The thought would be to sell them for \$10 and the discounts would be good for a stated period of time. We should possibly consider using a smaller

number of companies and sell it for less. Belmont Car Wash was approached and instead of being willing to be used on the discount card, they donated two \$150 gift cards that we are considering using as a raffle or auction item at a future event.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Update** – Julie Weeden reported that the Sargent Camp dates are for May 29-31. She inquired if the 5<sup>th</sup> grade could fundraise during the Winter Social event, possibly a raffle or bake sale?

### **Event Recaps**

Scholastic Book Fair – we have not decided to get a check or all Scholastic Dollars. We sold about \$9,000 worth of books and used Scholastic Dollars to buy teacher books valued at more than \$2,000. We are looking into if we made any money on the book fair after paying for the cost of the books and purchasing books for teachers. Last year, we sold far less (\$6,000) and still turned a profit. Feedback that the e-wallet worked out very well.

Police Escort Raffle winner was Gavin St. Clair won and he will be arriving to school in a cruiser on Friday. The fundraiser profited \$297.

### **Financial Snapshot**

Total raised: \$21,496

Left to Goal: \$3,504

In Reserves: \$6,693.19

We are in good shape - just waiting on the Fun Run 😊

**Next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2019**