

Roy Cloud PTO Meeting

November 14, 2017

6:30 pm

Attended by: Staci Homrig, Pam Bartfield, Leanna Staben, Dana Hardester, Kristen Fielding, Allison Benjamin, Rochelle Romer, Jim Balestieri, Michelle Ortez, Anna Rivoli, Mary-Elizabeth Redner, Yvonne Sarles, Karen Brux, Desiree Johnson, Belinda Mendez, Avis Hains, Kortney Opshang, Tanya Bachniak

1. Call Meeting to Order - Yvonne Sarles
2. Financial Report - Jim Balestieri
 - Our balance through end of October is \$364K. Major sources of income this month included \$27K from Direct Donations, around \$8K in matching funds, and a little under \$12K was brought in from the 60th Birthday Party. There is also just under \$12K being held in our account for the District.
 - All in, we were at around \$60K income for the month, which is right on schedule for the budget.
 - Expenses for the month included expenses related to the Auction, fees for the new software for direct donation, and the annual fee (\$654) for the online directory.
 - A question was asked as to whether we ended up making any money on the 60th Birthday Party; we aren't sure that we made money, but we definitely broke even, which is what we were trying to do.
3. Principal's Report - Dana Hardester
 - Karen Warner came on the first Monday of the month for Tech Talk. The October talk was on Common Sense Media, and she'll be giving this talk at the Principal's Coffee on Dec 8th. The subject is about good digital programs to use with your kids, not online safety. The Library will be crowded with set up for the Book Fair, so it's asked that parents wishing to attend not bring small children with them. Karen is leading the Common Sense Media pilot program with the district, and we have four teachers at Cloud who have already done a Digital Leadership program with the district.
 - The Book Fair is coming up at the beginning of December.
 - Conferences are going to be held during the week of Thanksgiving. All parents will be asked to attend a teacher conference during the Fall conference schedule. Spring conferences are held at the parents' or teacher's request.
 - One issue that we've had during the Fall conference schedule is that a number of families travel over the Thanksgiving break, so teachers end up scheduling a lot of one-off conferences. A question was raised as to whether we should consider going back to half-days during the conference week, but in that case, would we continue to have the entire Thanksgiving week off? Per Dana, our attendance schedule generally follows the Sequoia Union High School District, and big breaks follow the high school schedule, which gets published two years at a time. We wouldn't on our own change the the schedule for the Thanksgiving break.
4. Auction Update/Fund A Need Discussion/Vote to Approve FAN/Auction Update/Exec Board - Avis Hains, Leanna Staben, Tanya Bachniak, Kristen Fielding
 - Update on Auction Items - Per Tanya, we have a small group still collecting items. Please let the Auction team know if you have any ideas. They definitely need some more help in hosting parties or with other ideas. Leanna suggested parents ask around at places they take their kids (camps, etc).

- The Auction committee will host an idea generation party on December 7th, a Thursday night. The committee is looking for a range of Ideas for the whole auction evening.
- One idea that is apparently hot right now at school auctions: naming rights for sandwiches, drinks, etc, at a local bar or restaurant. If anyone has a connection here, that would be great to know.
- The discussion turned to Auction parties. Yvonne suggested asking a veteran family team up with a younger family to host a party, as families newer to the school may feel intimidated to host on their own.
- Another parent asked about what the parties were, and a suggestion was made to send a communication out on what hosting or attending an Auction party would entail, along with a couple of ideas on what's been done in the past.
- We then discussed FAN. Yvonne told us that the two items were - 1) Health & Wellness/Playground Improvement Project; and 2) Upgraded Classroom Libraries, to create individual library areas for each classroom.
- Additional details on Option 1 Health & Wellness/Playground Improvement project - We are still flushing this idea out, but it would include increasing Legarza staffing during recess times. We have added Legarza at recess, and it's been very successful, but currently the kids are clustered together together on blacktop, and the baseball field is empty at lunch. If we increase Legarza by two people, every day at lunch, they could run activities for the kids. There is so much more we could do with more space. Depending on the amount of money raised, we could complement this with some additional offerings, such as equipment. We are looking into a parcourse (for those that do not know, a parcourse is an outdoor exercise track equipped with a series of stations where one can stop and perform specific exercises). The parcourse would include exercises relevant and specific for kids - balance beams, etc. Legarza would be in place and so could offer supervision. We'd also like to add a water bottle hydration station. Another possibility, in addition to the parcourse, we are looking into a climbing structure.
- A parent asked where we would we put the swings, which have been removed during the construction of the new outdoor eating space. For now, we are not replacing the swings; they take up a lot of space, and only a few kids at a time can use them. There is potential to add them back in when the new construction of new building is complete, potentially in 8-10 years. We are replacing the slides; we have the new slides, and are just getting the workers to put them in. Anna asked whether the Legarza lunch period time would the include middle school? Per Kristen - yes we'd have Legarza from 11:00-2:00. A follow up question was asked on whether we would need to have teachers help with the additional supervision. No - the field would only open at lunch. Avis asked whether, if we invest adding equipment to the green area, along with the additional Legarza time, will we be able to maintain it? Will we always have Legarza at lunch? If this ends up a success, we'd need to work it into our budget going forward. Per Jim, the cost of Legarza is actually very reasonable. It's the highest quality program you can get for the cheapest price - \$40 per hour for two people.
- Another questions was asked as to whether there was an order of priority for the things we'd add additional to Legarza? The monkey bars and climbing structures seem like high priority items - but where would they go? Yvonne thought perhaps around perimeter of the baseball field. We will need to meet with the architects who are designing the future new building, to see how it will all fit in.
- Additional details on Option 2, the individual library area for each classroom - The idea is to create a library reading area in each classroom, including a new Classroom Library, with updated books, new rugs, etc. Kids needs change in reading material over time, and the books get trashed. We could create a more comfortable space for them to read in classroom.
- In fact, this was actually Option 3 originally. There was a different Option 2 originally - new playground equipment and flooring, but in the end, this might not be feasible, given that this playground is going to be moved eventually for the new building. When teachers were

surveyed, 47% of chose Health & Wellness in their top 4 choices, and 42% listed a new classroom library in their top four choices.

- A teacher made the comment that in the first few weeks, the classroom library was used frequently, but then once the class had access to the library, they don't use it as much.
- Another parent wondered whether we could mix some things - some aspects of Health & Wellness, plus maybe something for the Lower Grade libraries? It doesn't have to be an all or nothing.
- Avis asked whether there is anything the teachers would benefit from if we do Health & Wellness? Anna wondered whether parents would go for a fund-in-need for teachers? The classrooms are old. Perhaps we could look at doing an alternative seating arrangement for the classrooms? Maybe with standing desks? Per Dana, Measure T is going to replace the classroom furniture but it will take many years.
- Belinda wondered whether we could figure out a space for the students who just don't want to play or have anyone to play with. Maybe a space for some of the kids to read. They can't go to the library during regular recess. Dana pointed out that they will be able to go to the lunch shelter once that is built.
- Kortney asked whether we can we vote on Health & Wellness and do the prioritization later? Yvonne agreed, and just added that we need to make sure that whatever we do as part of FAN is not already being done through the bond.
- Karen asked whether we could we do a trial for new furniture - such as a stand up desk - in an individual classroom. It sounds like not. If we are piloting a project for new seating, furniture, etc, this would probably be fore the 2019 Auction. Dana agreed. She also agreed that Health & Wellness can be left a bit broad, so that we don't get too specifically locked in to one thing. We could also look at Health & Wellness for as a two year project, with an outdoor focus the first year and an indoor focus the second year.
- Yvonne asked whether we are comfortable voting? Yes. We held a vote on Health & Wellness, with the plan to start with additional time with Legarza supervision at lunch recess, to get the kids on baseball field, and then ideally adding some additional things such as a parcourse, hydration station, etc, depending on the level of funding. All present were in favor of the Health/Wellness package for FAN.
- Lastly - Leanna is hosting a gathering at her house, on December 7th, to discuss additional ideas for Auction items. She plans to send an Evite to people who have expressed interest; please let her know if you'd like to be included.

5. Teacher's Report - Anna Rivoli

- Thanks to the parents who donated the Coffee Cart!
- The ASB is organizing a movie night for K-5. Middle schoolers wanted *Elf*, but will be *Despicable Me III*. This will help ASB students to fundraise for the bus trip to Castle, which Scheduled for December 1st. *Despicable Me 3*. Parents are asked to fill out a permission slip. Movie Night will be from 5:30-7:30, and snacks will be sold.
- ASB is still looking for an event for December; generally we do a food bank or toy drive.
- December 22 is Pajama Day.
- We will be ordering new T-shirt, and will include the graduation year. There was some discussion around whether we want to move away from the Thunderbolt, perhaps have a mascot.
- We talked about the idea of Spirit Socks - Blue with lightning bolts on them, blue. Per Anna, she asked for input on the color for T-shirts - everyone said a different shade of blue. So, we're going with blue.
- We are trying to get younger kids involved in ASB. There will be a relay race out on the baseball field on December 6th, and we'll try to have 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders participate. ASB is supposed to help whole community, so we are putting an effort into spreading school spirit beyond the middle schoolers to the younger grades.
- The Castle trip will be during spring break.

6. Garden Update/Vote to Approve Budget - Allison Benjamin
 - The garden is really coming alive. Vegetables are almost ready to harvest. Originally we had \$1000 in our budget. We blew through that right away because we had a team come in and clean out the garden, and that cost \$1000. We need to put a little bit more money in there. Allison has been spending out of pocket, and also bringing in donations.
 - Allison cleaned out the shed, purchased some new tools for the kids, and cut up some fallen logs. She repainted the grade level markers to match the shed. Heidi and Gerd came up with a lesson for Worm Towers to be set up. We have an 8th grade girl scout troop interested in doing their community service award in the garden. They want to focus on painting a mural on the side of the garden shed and fixing the greenhouse. We are looking to get the greenhouse ready for planting in February.
 - The irrigation needs to be repaired. Allison is also getting the canopy cut back for additional light filtration. So far we are at about \$700 spent out of pocket on the garden.
 - Question - are all the classes going out to the garden? It is dependent upon who got parent volunteers. We have 12 teachers and Kids Corner participating. Not every teacher wanted to do it, and some can't find volunteers. There is a weekly schedule. Most classrooms don't go every week.
 - Dana informed us that someone broke into the shed and the garden over the summer. The keys are not matching now, so you need to use the master key.
 - Yvonne suggested a vote on adding \$1000 for the garden back into the budget, and reevaluating this at the end of the year. Well this amount get us through the tree trimming? Dana asked Allison to get a list of what she needs, and she will try to get facilities to do it. Now that the garden is being used on a regular basis, there are safety issues we need to be conscious of.
 - Anna made a motion for \$1000 additional to the budget for the learning garden, and Dana seconded. It was unanimously supported.

7. Book Fair - Alexandra Dendy (Alex not present, so Yvonne led this discussion)
 - The Book Fair is December 11th-14th. The selling hours will be at lunchtime and after school. We will hold a Family event Wednesday evening the 13th.
 - Theme is the Wild West and we want to do a Wild West Spirt Day on December 8th. We will have a coloring contest for a chance to win a \$5 gift certificate. A flyer will go home after Thanksgiving.
 - We desperately needs volunteers but particularly on the Friday before for the set up, which starts at 8 am, and also during family night from 6-8 pm. We need a coordinator for all the publicity for the Thursday folders. Has a Sign up genius gone up? Not yet.
 - Question - will it go until Friday the 15th, or will Friday be clean up day? Yvonne will double check but thinks it will go through Thursday .
 - Yvonne is aware that lunch time book orders have been an issue. She will check whether Alex needs help with book sales during the lunch hour.

8. Direct Donations Update - Anne Rabkin
 - We have raised \$165K total. At this point last year we were at 59% of our goal, and we are now at 94% of goal, including the matching funds we have to date. Jolie thinks we'll likely get another \$15K by end of year. Condensing the Direction Donation campaign period has paid off.
 - Thus far we have 36% of families participating. Right now we have fewer families participating as compared to last year.
 - We will have Kiddie Valet collect donations for Giving Tuesday. Last year we raised \$17k on Giving Tuesday, but campaign was still going at that point last year.
 - Unfortunately, we haven't broadened our participation rate. A suggestion was made to send out a Survey Monkey to see why people haven't donated.

- Staci mentioned that it would be useful to know which things people give to, and perhaps list the various fund raisers.
- With the new software, there will be some uniformity between Auction and Direct Donation.
- The second night of Maze Days, we rang a bell whenever someone made a Direct Donation - it was super successful.
- Christina mentioned that a parent had donated a Coffee Cart, anonymously, for this Friday. Espresso Lane is the provider. It would be useful to have parent volunteers at the cart. Yvonne will email Victoria about this. Yvonne also mentioned that Christina should make sure Daniel knows about the cart.

9. Adjourn Meeting - Yvonne