

PTA Meeting, Monday, December 13, 2010

In Attendance: Maya Arechiga, Linda Geiser, Bill Mitchell, Aileen Hackett, Steven Gaffagan, Gary Ray, Titania Buchholdt, Laura Pedretti, Michelle Fadelli, Sonia Coleman, Nancy Kawase, David Roberts, Aaron Lewis, Michael Balmaceda, Helen Couture Rodriguez, Lucy Kirsch, Danielle Woody, Patty Osorio-O'Dea, Krista Easton, David Miller, Karla Andrade, Clare Sheridan, Crystal Nie, Cheryl Cotton, Beckie Denio, Mary Crabb, Ameena Jandali

Called to Order: 7:10 pm

Approval of November 2010 Minutes: Lucy Kirsch moved to approve the minutes with corrections and Maya Arechiga seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report: Linda Geiser encouraged people to make a new year's resolution to commit more volunteer hours to the school. "Invite Your Family to School" week will be February 14-19. Look for information about it over email. Portola looks like it will indeed be rebuilt. Linda has the official announcement on a flyer and will pass it around. Linda thanked everyone for helping to make this year go so well up to this point.

Lucy Kirsch shared news from the Bayside PTA meeting, which happens once a month. She said they offer bulk discounts for 200+ mailings of first class postage stamps and encouraged those on the auction committee to take advantage of the discount for any mailings they might do. She said there was also some information about Measure D but doesn't want to give the details about the issue until she has the correct information, which will be coming soon.

Principal's Report: Ms. Cotton reported that 11 out of 19 teachers returned the parent teacher conference survey she put out. The teachers thanked the PTA for the support to have release time to do conferences. Four teachers opted to have a release day, 6 opted out and 6 said they would want a release day for next year. She said she'd like us to make a decision this spring about this coming fall. She said the reasons why teachers said they did not use the release time for conferences this year was because they already scheduled the conferences and didn't want to change the times on parents. They also said they didn't want to be out of their classroom that early in the year.

Kindergarten information tours happen on 12/15 at 10:30 am after break and on 1/6 at 1:00 pm. Please let and local preschools and people who have incoming kindergarteners know what's going on. We need about 10 volunteers to help with the registration to make it run smoothly (see information that will be sent home with students). January 10<sup>th</sup> is the first day of registration. Maya said that having packets available ahead of time may help with the chaos of registration day. Ms. Cotton said she'd look into it.

Everyday Math information night will go out in the blue folders. Alison Makela will be presenting and it's a time for parents to come and learn about the program, hear how teachers are implementing it and how parents can support their kids at home.

We were able to receive an ELD graduate tutor to support language learners and we will also have more intervention help from the kindergarten teachers, which is a reorganization of the kindergarten teachers' time and doesn't cost the school more money.

Ms. Cotton would like to see an afternoon tutorial program started, perhaps using retired teachers who can help with homework or other needs to move students from a basic to proficient level. Michelle Fadelli suggested considering using talented teenagers as tutors and Ms. Cotton said she would be open to it. She said the cost is what we are trying to figure out. We have about \$1500 dollars in school funds to provide a \$75 subsidy to each of the families who participate. We will pursue community organizations but may have to come back to the PTA for any additional funds we need to do this.

Ms. Cotton encouraged parents to come to the SSC meetings. They are having great conversations and a great group of parents is asking all the right questions. Come and join the conversation.

Ms. Cotton asked the PTA to purchase a laptop for the principal, which would be for this school site to use for presentations and all the things a laptop can do. It has to be purchased through the district and the cost is roughly \$1300. There were several questions from the membership. Karla Andrade moved to allocate \$1400 to purchase a laptop for the Madera principal. Helen Couture-Rodriguez seconded. One person abstained. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bank statements have been reconciled through 12/12/10. As of this date, total PTA funds on hand are \$88,573.84. Total cash balance in our checking account is \$42,767.19. Since the last report (11/08/10), 24 checks have been issued for a total amount of \$9,551.72 per the attached transaction summary report. Transactions from the November report have been updated (missing bank fee) which changes the ending balance of that report to \$84,544.18, matching the beginning of this month's transaction report.

I am attaching two additional reports this meeting: 1) A detailed budget report, showing income and expenses in every category, as well as the budgeted amounts, and the difference. 2) A special budget summary of several key items, to make it clear what the net income or expense was for a variety of fundraising activities, and areas of the school that we support.

Highlights include: The direct appeal has raised more than \$20,500 so far (budget was \$15,000) – thank you all so much for your direct support of Madera PTA, and I encourage you to continue! Net income of \$1,972 for Pizza in the Park (budget was \$1,500), \$10,817 from the Olympics (budget was \$7,250), \$1,171 from Ice Cream Sales (budget \$3,500) \$1,843 from Spirit Items (budget \$2,000). \$9,490 of discretionary spending, including PE equipment, office supplies, and parent-teacher conference support, leaving us with about \$27,510 in the discretionary budget (some of which is earmarked: band, math/science nights). Thanks again to all of the volunteers in every

activity and committee and project – none of this could get done without you and you make a BIG difference every day for Madera. Your efforts are appreciated!

Matt Reed moved to approve the treasurer's report and all disbursements made since last meeting. Laura Pedretti seconded. The motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

Capital Improvements: Linda explained that we received 70 responses from the Google group survey that went out about the 20 items that were brainstormed. The following items received the most responses:

- School Landscaping Improvements (\$5000)
- Classroom Technology (\$4000-7,000) – document cameras, laser printers,
- MPR Sound/DVD system (\$2,000)
- Umbrellas, Repair/Replace (\$600)
- Benches/Bleachers (\$1,000-\$5,000)

Linda was sure to clarify that none of this takes away from all the things we already have funded for the year. This is not from the reserve. This is a new line item in our budget to spend money we have raised. The reserves are protected. We are not running very close to spending all our money, even with these capital improvements. With the state budget crisis, the school may need to come to us for things we consider to be core academic programs (for things that should not be considered extras).

Helen Couture Rodriguez brought up space and emergency concerns about storage in classroom and about the emergency bags storage. Linda said we should keep the conversation on the items we already have on the list.

Karla Andrade, the PTA Parliamentarian, said the bylaws state we can't vote on whether or not to spend money for Capital Improvements unless it was clear to the PTA membership that we were voting tonight (it should be stated in the printed agenda). We can move forward by voting and saying what we really want to spend money on these items and then we can vote to actually spend it at the next meeting.

There were many questions and much discussion about whether or not we could bring the list down to just the two most popular items and vote tonight on those, or if we have to wait until the next meeting to vote to spend money on all of them.

After various proposals and a long discussion, Ameena Jandali moved to continue this conversation by getting quotes on all of these items by the next meeting, where we will vote on whether or not to spend the money for each item. Aaron Lewis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **New Business:**

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: The school board will be voting regarding whether or not to add a 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Madera at the school board meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Make your voice heard! Show up, write emails, etc.

Auction Plate Coordinator: Laura Pedretti volunteered to do this. ☺

Art Fair: This event is coming up on January 25th. Aileen Hackett read a report from Natalie Roth-Corti and Christy Leutzinger who will be chairing the event. Please volunteer to help with this event!

Winter Sing-a-Long: David Miller announced that we still need people to help decorate and we need 80 dozen cookies, so please volunteer to help in some way.

Vice President Reports:

Sonia Coleman, 1<sup>st</sup> VP: No report

Aileen Hackett, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: No report

Steven Gaffagan, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP: Steven thanked people for coming out to the book fair and restaurants and he thanked Negar and the book fair chairs. Steven reminded us to support teachers by giving donations for holiday gifts.

Faculty Liason: Ms Woody wanted to thank everyone for the great food provided for all the teacher luncheons and for all the support from the book fair.

Parliamentarian: Karla Andrade said that hopefully by next meeting we'll see a package of the updated bylaws of 2009 – then we'll be able to keep it for reference.

Announcements: Linda announced that we'll have no January meeting. In February, we'll begin recruiting for new PTA officers.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:01 pm