

Sangster PTA Meeting Minutes – Dec. 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Whitestone at 7:03 p.m. There were 14 people in attendance.

Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were approved on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Michelle Nocerito reported the banking account balance for 11/30 was \$77,362.67. \$35,000 was for dedicated accounts.

Principal's Update

Principal Chris Summers reported that he learned a lot in China. All the schools were 2200 students or more -- including elementary schools. Some of the classes were 44 students with one teacher. Very rote teaching. Would like to increase the Chinese language program because of that influence on the world. Tomorrow is Colonial Day for 4th grade, and Vincent Orellana will be principal for the day tomorrow as well. Winter break coming up -- Dec. 21 is a full day of school. Main office closed during the break. Nicole Oberdick joined us (5th grade AAP). Family Life Education for 5th/6th grade on Dec. 17. Essie Carter (Autism teacher) had her baby; she will return at the end of January. Nancy Rowson will be her long-term sub. Getting new chillers over winter break (will take 1.5 months to install). Cynthia Lord had a great author visit on Dec. 4. After winter break, you will hear about "bring your own device" -- 3rd-6th could bring iPads, laptops, Kindles to be used in school for instructional purposes. County will define what can be brought in and will get registered and approved (with a sticker) and be able to connect through FCPS. This is a new initiative for all schools. School board is working on AAP redesign.

Business Matters

- **AAP Center Update.** This is not just AAP matter but also Sangster matter. Will affect our staffing. Proposed to go from 234 students to 144 students. Programs such as the advanced orchestra will also be affected. Staffing positions are based on the total number of students, so faculty would be reduced as they go to other centers. Bus routes will also be changed/increased. We want to ensure the quality of education won't suffer. This is still a proposal -- will be up for discussion on Dec. 10 at the school board meeting
- **Spinny Johnson** as possible Cultural Arts program. Upbeat program combining basketball, hands-on participation, and emphasizing self-esteem and self-respect, etc. We would require 2 shows, back to back, for \$675. It was approved on a voice vote to bring him in the spring.
- **Thanksgiving lunch takeover.** Joyce Maryanopolis did a great job taking this event over. Would recommend rounding cost up to avoid adding problems.
- **Crossfit Kids.** Stephanie DeJohn spoke on this hour-long after-school program -- high-intensity, highly functional movements for kids. Would like to offer a class on Mondays after school. 99% of her class is outside. She provides all her own equipment and is insured. Would limit it to 4th-6th graders, no more than 30. Cost would be about \$104 for 8 weeks. Motion to have CrossFit Kids at Sangster was approved on voice vote.
- **Chess Club.** We found a parent volunteer and Silver Knights will be leading it -- will restart in January.
- **LBSS book discussion.** Laura Murphy came as chair of LB AAP and has daughter at Sangster. She highlighted some of the controversial material is being read in the AAP classes starting in 10th grade. There are currently 4 books in question. Laura read some passages from the books. They are asking that the English Department notify students and family relating to the topics being covered in these books.
- **Directory** is at the printer. Should be in the building tomorrow and should be distributed soon via Thursday folders. The process of getting the directory together this year was very tedious. Looking to make it more efficient next year. New FCPS policy saying that we can't give out e-mail information, but if you've signed up for the PTA membership and included your e-mail address, you have given permission to include your e-mail.
- **Thanksgiving feast** for the staff was great. Plenty of hot food all day long.
- **Video Game club.** Looking to have advanced club in spring in addition to regular club. Kids loved designing video games.
- **Sally Foster.** While the selection is a little limited, please go out and buy.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.