

Sangster PTA Meeting Minutes – Oct.4, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Whitestone at 7:01 p.m. There were 20 people in attendance.

Minutes

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

Special Presentation – Enrichment Matters

Marsha Baldwin and Nadia Stewart from Enrichment Matters talked about their free service for PTAs. They help PTA volunteers run after-school enrichment programs by acting as a bridge between PTA and providers. They create a Web site for each school's enrichment programs (includes Enrichment 101, class schedule/information/pricing, FAQs). They offer such classes as music, science, creative writing, sports and technology. Their prices are not increased (than just going with the provider directly). They provide end-of-session surveys for participants to evaluate the program to see what was popular, unpopular, etc. There is a one-year contract term, including a clause saying you can cancel if dissatisfied. Currently providing services in 7 schools and looking to expand. Can handle before- or after-school programs.

Principal's Message

We are already halfway through the first quarter. Interim reports will come home Thursday Oct. 11. CogAts will be Oct. 15-17 (new student CogAts are Oct. 22-24). Monday, Oct. 8 is the Columbus Day holiday. We have hired a new teacher to replace Mr. Gossin at the end of first quarter. Virginia had a waiver from "No Child Left Behind." As such, the State has set a lot of regulations regarding evaluations that teachers must do. One requirement is teachers being evaluated on student achievement/progress. We are working with teachers to set and achieve goals. Evaluations are based on the entire class, not just one child.

All Fairfax County schools have an Intervention block this year. This is a time to intervene ASAP on students who don't get a concept. This way, the teacher is constantly assessing a student's understanding of a lesson. Then at intervention, the teacher can talk with children who didn't catch on to a lesson. No new concepts are introduced during that time. Students who "got it" will be working on mastering that skill (e.g., starting working on homework early to ensure understanding). Teachers like the idea of this block but are still adjusting. Intervention is held school-wide from 1-1:30. Other IAs and teachers are available to fill in to provide help to main teachers.

Mr. Summers will be out for 2 weeks in November. He was selected to go to China Oct. 6-16 as part of delegation to work with Chinese educators. Ms. Kinsey will be attending as well. Ms. Butts will be putting an acting principal in place for that time.

Business Matters

- **Fall Fundraisers.**

- **Sally Foster** -- flyer going out next week in Thursday folders. Online only. You will use a code upon checkout and all orders delivered right to your house. We receive 40% of money.
- **Night of Delights** -- \$14,000 is goal. Oct. 26, from 5:30-8. PTA is sponsoring 3 baskets: "candy, candy, candy," raffling opportunity to be ticket puller, 25th anniversary celebration basket. Silent Auction -- teachers donating time. You have until Oct. 10 to donate goods/services so that the committee can write preview catalog to be sent out on the 18th. Games, movement, music -- all will be free. Charging for food, auction, raffle. 2 photographers to take family photos. Look on signup genius (e-mail Jan or look at PTA web site) to volunteer. We need to spread the word!

Raffling off PTA President's parking spot for Fun Fair and 6th grade graduation. Please think of a creative good or service you can offer.

- **Thanksgiving Lunch Takeover** -- Need volunteers over the course of 3 days to help with line management, distributing tickets, administrative work ahead of time.
- **Membership** -- Need folks to join ASAP. Tomorrow is deadline for advertisers to get their money in for directory.
- **Video Game Design Club** -- Leslie Lantz offering idea of developing club for video game design. She has found program for 4th-9th graders to design video games but don't have to learn the programming language. They can brainstorm and create. Proposing to start for 12 5th graders as prototype. Can use creative writing skills, teamwork, learn to give/receive effective feedback. Cost is TBD and participants will need their own laptop. The club will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. for 5 weeks. Program called GameStar. A motion was made to approve the club; the motion was approved with a voice vote.
- **Web Site Update** -- Goal for September was to get site current, correct and relevant. Started creating @sangsterpta.org e-mail addresses. They can go to multiple people with just one e-mail. We will publish those as they get solidified. October goals are to get club information current. Plans to work with membership and directory (didn't use Web site much this year to do membership) to make things easier and smoother. Also plans to add relevant information for parents, such as days off, cafeteria menu. The Calendar will show the agenda (for current meeting) and minutes (for past meetings). SangsterPTA.org is all you need to type!

Treasurer's Report

The banking account balance for 9/30 was \$59,291.64. YTD, we have \$5,700 from membership. 9% collected from web site. Spirit wear for September had a gross of \$7,300. Ticket sales for Night of Delights so far are \$920.

Special Events/Committee Reports

- **Spirit Wear** -- Lora Mote. Directory advertising: we have 15-20 advertisers -- will probably make money this year. Voting on directory cover design tomorrow. Color cost covered by back-side advertising.
- **Reflections** -- Theme is "Magic of the Moment". National PTA fine arts competition. Link on Web site for volunteers. Artists from Workhouse Arts Center will be the judges. Submission deadline is Oct. 26.
- **Newsletter** -- Articles are due Oct. 7.
- **Science Olympiad** -- If anyone is interested in volunteering, contact Regina Schmitt.

Upcoming Events

- Silent auction -- 10/26
- Fun run -- 10/21
- Book fair -- Nov 12-16. Cookies on Tuesday night -- safety patrols will be hosting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.