

**PDC Meeting Minutes**  
**January 30, 2007**

Stacy Graven called the meeting to order. Parent Representative Wendy Schrandt has moved, and we need to find a replacement for her. We re-introduced ourselves, as it has been two and one-half months since our last meeting. Susan Mueller is taking Stephanie O'Malley's place as the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Representative, while Stephanie is on maternity leave. Stacy wants to finalize and approve the Annual Work Plan today. November meeting minutes were approved.

**Attendance**

<b>Parents</b>	Stacy Graven, Facilitator	Leslie Feller
	Yolanda Rubio-Couttolenc	Susan Schwam
	Ramsay Ringo, PTSA Rep	Holly Westerberg, Secretary
<b>Staff</b>	Carma Young (1)	Daina Calixto (3)
	Linda Myrick (4)	Paula DuBois
	Shannon Leahy	Johnnie Gregory, Principal
<b>Guests</b>	Chris Lang, Parent	Casey Castaneda, Math Specialist
	Lynette Friesen, Math Specialist	

**Principal's Report**

As of January 1, 2007, our enrollment is at 471, with 11 new families enrolled at Clyde Hill after Holiday Break. As we continue to grow at Clyde Hill, the school district put our project ahead of other priorities and is helping to work through any problems that might arise with construction. Construction Bids are going out in March, with anticipation of final contract approval at the May Board Meeting. The portables have been slated to be moved June 22 (hoping that there are no more snow days that would extend that deadline), so that construction can break ground as soon as school is out. The new playground will be tied-in to the remodel. City of Clyde Hill continues to be very cooperative and helpful with planning and permits, which is good for us. Although we anticipate 88 kindergarteners at Medina to join us next Fall as 1<sup>st</sup> Graders (a big class), we hope to have art in the music room, and not on a cart.

The first Kindergarten Parent Orientation meeting is tomorrow at Medina. There will be two meetings at Medina, and two at Clyde Hill. We are trying to give a community feeling to the kindergarteners and their families. We, along with the First Grade team, are planning a fun barbeque, or something like it, at the end of the summer, to welcome the post-kindergarteners back from Medina.

The Homework Club is a very exciting project! Daina adds that it is nice for the students to get their work done one day per week, and wants to add another day to the club, so they can meet two days per week. At 25-30 students per session, the club is currently full. We have four teachers/adults per session, and sometimes more as teachers will stop by to check on their students and stay to help out. The teachers say it is great to see the students succeeding, and Susan Schwam added that it is great to not have the parent/homework struggle anymore. The best part is that the students are feeling great/confident/capable.

Currently, the club serves 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades, but we are hoping to someday serve all students from first grade up. We are still working on getting Bellevue HS kids in to help with the homework, to satisfy their Public Service requirement. In the beginning, if the student said they had no homework, Daina would call the teacher and the parent to check on this. The students quickly learned that it was easier to get the work done, as they would be checked on. Now there are no students who say they have no homework.

We had a tree down on a portable, from the December windstorm, but it has been repaired and we are now up and running.

The Tech Facilitator position is vacant and we are currently working on what it should look like. What do we need for each grade level? The Lab is being used by the teachers/classes—kids are getting time in the lab via classroom sign up. Teachers are letting Mrs. Hale know what is coming up as far as research projects, so that she knows what to help with.

### **PTSA Report**

The building fund was short money. At the Board Meeting, PTSA voted to keep all specialists, and the PTSA was able to contribute the unused portion of the Tech contract toward the building fund.

The PTSA is preparing to fill the Executive positions for next year. The nominating committee is: Michelle Snyder, Susan Schwam, and Cheryl McLauchlan.

The Book Fair this year went fine, but not as good as in previous years with Scholastic. In the past, the school has received books, not cash. We made \$1600. The teacher wish lists worked, but not as well as with Scholastic.

The Ice Skating fundraiser made a little money and was fun.

The Auction is very exciting and is coming along. We are looking for volunteers to help with different aspects of the auction. Teresa Wagner is working on finding and reaching different groups of volunteers. Clyde Hill can be a daunting place to feel comfortable in, and we are trying to reach out to as many parents as possible. Stacy Graven asked if there was any way to donate tickets so that teachers' spouses could join them at the auction—absolutely! What a great idea! Cecille Miller will photograph all classroom auction projects to post on the website as a preview, and to be displayed at the silent auction. At this time, we don't think we'll be having online bidding. The Auction will be on March 24.

The After-School activities are going well, we are in our second official session (although the Fall session was quiet).

### **PTSA Website**

Everything is in place and we'll be getting most all services up by Friday. The website is: [www.clydehillpta.org](http://www.clydehillpta.org).

The newsletter will be available online soon, but there will still be paper copies of the newsletter for families that may not have access and they can be sent home with students that we know need the paper copies. There will be a transition period to make sure that all families are aware of the change to an online newsletter.

### **Math Specialists/Facilitators—Casey Castaneda & Lynette Friesen**

Casey is a full time Math Specialist, in her fourth year in the position. Lynette is a part time Math Specialist, in her first year in the position.

They sent a letter to Clyde Hill Families, explaining their role at Clyde Hill, which was re-written this year to address many of the questions they received last year. The letter is concise and describes the function of the Math Facilitator. Casey and Lynette divided the classes equally so that they can be very intentional with the grade level that they are working with. Casey is responsible for grades 1 and 4, Lynette is responsible for grades 3 and 5, and they split the five 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. They both give support to the classrooms, as well as extension, working with entire classes as well as small groups.

When working with the teachers, Lynette and Casey can give them different ways to present instruction. They provide help with smartboard presentations, how to use this tool to its maximum effectiveness. And they can give the technology to provide links to math units.

When working with assessments, they help analyze the assessments, then take the results to help the teacher with intentional instruction and support. Daina added that the Math Specialists are the teachers' eyes to see "cool new math concepts" and bring them to Clyde Hill and into the classroom.

They enjoy watching the grade levels and seeing how the program works as the students progress. They also watch to see where the dots do not connect for students in the curriculum and pass that information back to the District.

Johnnie added that the District is very open to any feedback with respect to the students. They are constantly checking to see if what we do in the class room is what we want the outcome to be. The District keeps checks on all the schools and gets information from schools that have strong curriculum programs. They (the district) are listening.

Last Summer, Casey and Lynette worked to clarify the curriculum and move things around so that they made more sense in context. The Curriculum Web is a blessing in this instance, but things are constantly changing, so it keeps the Specialists on their feet.

The question about TERC and whether it is enough to get our kids up to National and International standards in math came up—is there a gap in the ability to have fact-based

knowledge? Casey answered that Bellevue is a great place for our students. Bellevue's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade standards are 5<sup>th</sup> grade standards in many other districts. Some other districts have mixed curriculum; we have a consistent curriculum, which can sometimes be overwhelming to teach, but is a big strength. All curriculums have holes, and BPS is doing a good job at trying to fill the holes.

*Do you sometimes feel like an octopus?* Yes, we have to be very flexible in our job. We get to spend more focused time with the students, which is a benefit to us and to them.

*The kids love it—it helps immensely.* Sometimes the teachers can get so focused that they can't see the extension, we help by giving the extension to the teachers. This is a great relationship that the teachers and Math Facilitators have.

This year is different than last year in that the students do not leave the classroom for math help. This way no one gets the confidence blow of getting pulled out for special help. This way too, every student is getting math work at the same time and not missing any other classwork while working one-on-one with a specialist. Last year, the specialists were working with the class as well as a pull out group. Now the specialists and students work together as a class, and in small groups in the classroom, so that everyone can get support or extension, as needed.

Over the course of the year, the specialists have contact with every child. A couple teachers commented that the math specialists are a blessing. During the small classroom group rotations, students who are struggling often succeed with extension help. This is a great achievement for both the specialist, but more for the student (I can do this!). It is also easier to be focused with a smaller classroom group, so each student can get individualized attention.

The Math Specialists/Facilitators do not have much contact with parents. If there is a math issue, the first person a parent should go to is their student's teacher. If deemed necessary, the teacher can choose to involve the Math Specialist in a conference to give extra support.

Casey said she would email the group letter to Susan Schwam for PTA website. Daina will forward a teacher perspective to Susan as well.

### **Work Plan**

The Math Curriculum Night surveys are done and results are being assembled.

The Tech Position is TBD.

Classroom Placement Form Review: Parents and Teachers working on survey—Daina Calixto and Ramsay Ringo. Will get this out to teachers quickly.

The Virtues Project is ongoing until Spring of 2008. Presentation scheduled in March.

AVID is moving forward as a continuing project for the next few years.

Stacy called for an approval to the work plan, it was approved.

The meeting was adjourned. Next PDC Meeting: Thursday, March 1, 2:45pm.

**\*\*A special thank you to Linda Myrick for use of her classroom and for the Hershey's Kisses!\*\***