

PDC Meeting Minutes November 21, 2006

Stacy Graven called the meeting to order. Minutes from October's meeting were approved. A big thank you to Susan Schwam & Linda Myrick for getting the annual work plan draft together.

Attendance

Parents	Stacy Graven	Krista Glass
	Yolanda Rubio-Couttolenc	Wendy Schrandt
	Susan Schwam	Ramsay Ringo, PTSA Rep
	Holly Westerberg, Secretary	
Staff	Jo Ann Asato (1)	Sue Shannon (2)
	Daina Calixto (3)	Linda Myrick (4)
	Stephanie O'Malley (5)	Paula Dubois
	Shannon Leahy	Johnnie Gregory
Guests	Lynette Friesen, AVID	

Math Night

The grade-level Math Night schedule is as follows:

1 st Grade	01/18/07	6:30-7:30PM	Rm 105
2 nd Grade	12/14/06	2:45-3:45PM	Rm 102
3 rd Grade	12/07/06	6:00-7:00PM	Rm 205
4 th Grade	12/05/06	6:00-7:00PM	Rm 204
5 th Grade	12/12/06	6:00-7:00PM	Rm 306

(First grade date/time had not been determined at time of meeting.)

The question of the survey came up again, and it was suggested that parents could sign in at math night at provide an email address, allowing them to get their survey via email.

Other General Discussion

Susan Schwam has been hard at work on a Clyde Hill PTSA/PDC web page—Johnnie says it looks great. Once it is up, Susan wants everyone to take a look and give any suggestions you may have for improvement. The question came up as to whether we could get PDC meeting minutes on the page as well (yes, Holly will email Susan the minutes). According to Stacy, people are checking the District PTSA/PDC website, so one specific to Clyde Hill will be beneficial.

PTSA Report

Clyde Hill raised \$9,000 from the Sally Foster Wrapping Paper fundraiser—way to go! We are still receiving corporate matching from the Walk-A-Thon, so the numbers are not yet finalized.

Teri Fujinaga has been working with the City of Clyde Hill and they have agreed to donate money toward our lower playground.

Clyde Hill Ice Skating Day is Wednesday, December 13 from 1:00-9:00pm. Three dollars from every Clyde Hill skate rental will come back to Clyde Hill, so this is a great opportunity for fun and fundraising.

We are hoping to get the cookie dough orders from the wrapping paper fundraiser by Christmas, Ramsay will follow up with Meri Gilbert (Wrapping Paper Coordinator) to confirm.

There was great response to the play this year, so we are starting to look into more after-school programs. We will start slowly because we are looking for quality after-school programs. There is a possibility of a lottery system for participation so that there is not a glut of kids in the programs. The plan is to have a good balance of programs (ie: art, science, sports, etc.) to appeal to a broad range of children, as well as an age range. However, these programs will not be free of charge, and scholarships may be available for those unable to pay. If you know of any good quality programs, please let Jana Baker know.

Transportation has to be considered, as some of the kids take the bus and have no other alternative transportation. It has to be made clear that the kids participating in any after-school program will need a mode of transport other than the bus to get home.

Linda Myrick brought up the question of a Homework Help after-school program for kids who need extra academic time or help with school work. Daina Calixto is starting an after school homework help session in January. It will be once a week to start. Each teacher can recommend two students who might need additional help. We might be able to get High School students to help staff the sessions, as they need 40 hours of community service for graduation. Maybe Joe Long can help too? It will last for a six-week evaluation period to determine the need. The sessions will be 2:35-3:20.

The call went out September 21 to teachers to offer their classrooms for After-School-Programs. There has been good response, just a few have yet to respond. There is talk of paying staff a token fee to supervise these programs.

Principal's Report

We are going forward with the building process. Bids are going out to contractors in March-April and we're hoping to start construction in May-June. We got word yesterday that City of Bellevue waived the sewer/water upgrade requirement since the school was refurbished in 2000. Parking will be reduced once construction starts. Clyde Hill Fire Department will not require a turnaround, so this will give us more space. It looks like we will be able to get this done quickly (from a construction standpoint). The City of Clyde Hill has a few concerns, but is being very supportive. We are looking at a completion date of September 2008 to be all back together again, and hoping that our 2007-08 Spring play can be here in our own auditorium.

The new construction will include six new classrooms: four in the current location of our gym/kitchen/music room, and the other two in front of the current portable location, along with our new lunchroom/kitchen, music room, and gymnasium. The portables will be moving to the lower field.

The suggestion came up that we post the plans on our website, stating that the plans are for information purposes only and are not up for debate.

Elementary AVID Coordinator Presentation—Lynette Friesen

Clyde Hill is part of a pilot program, along with Stevenson, Lake Hills and Sherwood Forest, for AVID Elementary. AVID is a National system designed to help school-age children learn and study effectively. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination.

Nationally, AVID is a Middle- and High-school program with a focus on the average student, not necessarily those in Advanced Placement classes. The students are chosen for the program by their teachers, and go through a very thorough screening process before starting the program. Bellevue is different because nearly every student at upper grade levels is in at least one AP class. Every middle and high school has AVID in place, most have waiting lists, and the students are proud to be AVID students.

At the current Elementary pilot level, the AVID program is embedded in every-day learning for fifth graders only. All students are AVID students. The main reasons for implementing this at Elementary level are: higher math units have been rolling down to Elementary level, and it helps to support the 5th-6th grade connection/transition.

At Clyde Hill, AVID is only a 5th grade program. The curriculum includes: Organization for desk, homework, binders, etc.; Using writing as a tool to process thoughts; effective note taking (how it looks and organizational thinking); Collaboration and Inquiry; Speaking and Listening; SLANT (Sit Up, Lean Forward, And Note-Take); as well as study skills—why did they need to learn what they learned. Lynette is spending one hour in classes every other week, and Middle School students are coming in December to tell about their Middle School experiences. Eventually Johnnie would like to see AVID in all grades.

Bellevue Schools Foundation funded AVID four years ago. Letters went home to parents explaining the program, and at the beginning of the school year, some 5th grade parents volunteered to work Monday mornings to help with organization. Letters were sent home by teachers to parents of students who might need a little extra help.

Stephanie added that the kids are doing great note-taking and learning. They have Cornell note exercises, and the kids are telling the teachers what they need to learn for the tests. The teachers are all doing a great job too, as they have to understand AVID fully in order to incorporate it into and align it with daily learning.

Work Program

Reviewed calendar and went over and unfinished items.

Math Curriculum

Survey form for December Math Nights to be completed by Shannon. Johnnie suggested a Family Math night where the math games are modeled and families have a chance to play them. Also need to work on current goal/future goal.

Review PTSA Funded Programs

The plan is to form Task Forces to meet with the specialists and then report back to the group, so we can spend more time discussing rather than listening for the information we need. Specific questions can be given to the task forces in order to get the information we need from the specialists. It was suggested that we could do this via email and then discuss info in the meeting. December will be a bad month for this, so we can review two programs per month in January and February, for completion by March so we can thoughtfully review the teacher surveys.

Last year teachers felt their surveys were not heard, and PDC heard lots of presentations from the specialists, and had little time for discussion. This year teachers want the opportunity to bring up new options on the surveys and have more time for discussion. It was suggested to put the teacher survey out earlier (January?) so there can be more time to talk about about the programs.

Some had qualms about the task forces because of last year's miscommunications. With both parents and teachers on the task forces, the groups can support each other and get the big picture for everyone.

The meeting was adjourned. **We will try to have a Decemeber meeting, Stacy to email a date.**