Carlton Home and School Club Meeting
February 15, 2017, 8:28 am

Present:

President: Denise Kranich, Vice President Nicole Cione-Baker,
Treasurer: Brandi Mincey, Community Co-chair: Kulwinder Sandhu Projects Chair: Maki Hirata, Secretary: Sarah Tiglao
Principal: Lisa Lorona
Community Members: Maureen Currie, Jen Fosco, Lesley Foster, Lara Panish, Katie Currie

Regrets: Community Co-chair: Missy Romero

Meeting called to order by Denise Kranich at 8:28 am

What's Working?

- 5th grade Science Camp was awesome!
- 4th grade Walk Through California was great.
- Nicole Baker shared an anecdote about quick problem solving on campus. There was a problem with a substitute in 4th grade. The kids found caring adults who went to administration that day and Mrs. Lorona observed the substitute in action. By the end of the day, the decision was made that that substitute cannot return to campus. A 4th grader said, "Cornerstone works!"
- Meeting minutes make it so people feel like they know what is going on even if they can't attend meetings.

Meeting Minutes for January – all approved.

Auction Update – ticket sales may start Monday after break.

- March 25th
- Feedback was given to the auction committee that we need more colorful and image-heavy communication. Emails and papers.
- Through the process of applying for gambling permit, we became aware that **our charitable trust status has been delinquent since 2010**. Two tax returns back in 2011 and 2012 were never filed (all since have been filed and all fees paid). Treasurer is tracking down the filings (which had been prepared by an accountant), submitting them, and bringing our status up-to-date.

Financial Summary:

- Currently have $181,153.13 in the bank.
  - $110,601.36 in the General Fund
  - $452 from 4th grade fundraising (to pay for next year's science camp/end of year party)
  - $36,920.10 earmarked for this year's 5th grade science camp
  - $24,119.67 for field trips and grade level funds

    - $9,060.00 Yearbook Fund
- Beyond the $30,000 float fund we are required to keep in the bank, adding in funds that we expect to receive and assuming all the budgeted expenses are paid out, we have a surplus of $35,872,95.
- Brandi Mincey and Nicole Baker met with Noddin and Alta Vista Home and School Club members to learn how they work and hear about their "float money." These HSCs keep a $50,000 rainy day fund – in order to be able to cover all the contracts and big items – such as music, PE, etc – to be able to cover all contracts in case fundraising does not come through as expected. Noddin hasn't always been in this position and parents have worked hard to have this cushion. It is important to have a clear idea of the amount of money we are committed to spending on contracts for the next year, so we know exactly how much we need to keep us afloat.
- **Last month it looked like we were going to be left with more surplus. How did it change so much in one month? Will give Brandi time to look through this. Come back to it.**
- It isn't always easy to spend the money due to various constraints. The community wants to look at ways to spend the money. We need to look at the bare bones basics that we need for the most essential programs. We want to look into how the community want to spend this surplus and may have a meeting to discuss community input.

Shade Update:

- There are many moving parts, which are causing problems for starting this project. We can't have shade installed in our proposed location because it is a fire exit lane.
- The shade structure cannot be built until it is know where the solar panels will go. Could we have a back up plan in case shade can't happen this year?

Survey Results:

- Overwhelmingly people want to change our communications.
- According to the survey, people didn't love the school supplies expenditure. People have expressed concern about buying supplies that teachers already have. Parents would love to see that the school disburse what they have and then ask for help filling in the gaps.
- Parents like the idea of teachers ordering exactly what they need. Ordering and distributing supplies is very difficult
- Teachers feel like they have what they need, but substitutes feel like there aren't enough pencils.
- We have a surplus and problems with spending money, but the community wants shade, so lets not spend that money on something else even if the shade can't be built this year.

Communication Ideas:

- It is hard to get more people to come to meetings and participate. We brainstormed some ideas to improve our communication with the community:
- Always send out "Remind" text about upcoming meetings.
- Send out agenda in advance.
- After meetings, send out a link to the meeting minutes and include a short list of topics discussed.
- The problem is getting people to sign up to receive Remind texts.
- This month we will send out an email about topics covered.

Playground Update:

- We are continuing to work to get the zip line track lowered because kids have been injured. It is only allowed to be a certain height. There are concerns about the height of the platform they stand on (that children will swing back and bump their legs), but lowering the platform is expensive. Adding a second platform would cost thousands of dollars. The district lowered the track four inches, which isn't enough. The district needs to come back and lower it 5 more inches (so that it is 9 inches lower than at the beginning of the year.) More tam bark could help, but the problem is it is moveable.

Buddy Bench update: Buddy Benches will be delivered over break and then will get installed.

Dance fest video: Ms. Lorona called all 25 families that opted out of social media photos. We now only have 6 families opting out. Ms. Lorona will call each of these families to see if she can get permission their children to be photographed/videoed for only this one event and posted online to a link only sent to Carlton families.

Traffic Update: Nicole Baker and Lisa Lorona have been in touch with a crossing guard agency and have gotten a contract for one guard to start Monday after Febrary break. The agency wants the district to choose the location the guard would work before signing the contract or coming out to our school. This would mean that we will now have two crossing guards. Hopefully, the trained person will be able to help improve traffic safety and flow.

The community needed to participate in the vote since this is an expenditure outside of the original budget approved in September. Nicole Baker Moved to approve $5000 for a new crossing guard. Lara Panish seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The district pays about $10-$12/hour for our current crossing guard. Our hope is the two guards will work together.

Tech depreciation fund: As CHSC purchases more an more technology for the shool, it might be wise to have a Tech depreciation fund available to repair/replace technology as needed.

- CHSC paid for some chromebooks. District has depreciation covered.
- This year we have spent about $2000 on STEAM. Perhaps this tech fund could go under STEAM.
- According to the survey, parents would like to see more STEAM and robotics programs at our school.
- Perhaps this could be a new STEAM bridge the gap line item. (Treasurer Brandi Mincey will work with Ms. Chia on this)

Planning for next year

- Nomination committee is forming. People that are going to run for roles next year, should get involved asap.
- Nominating committee – We have 2 confirmed members and 2 maybes.
- As always, all board positions are open. Current member can choose to run again if they wish.
- Denise will email out that she is not going to come back as President next year. She may also put her letter in Thursday envelopes
- It would be excellent if there are people interested in board positions could get involved now and shadow current board members.

Special Project request:

- The board approved over email to increase the budget for the Multicultural night by $500. There will be 19 countries represented this year, which is an exciting increase from past years. The Multicultural Night will be held April 28th.

Principal Report:

- Cornerstone Kindness Card stations at lunch as part of kindness week.
- Multicultural planning committee was full of people here to plan.
- Multiculural assemblies coming up – Mexican, African drummers. Looking into one more.
- New this year – English Language Learner night – support families. They can use the "Imagine Learning" program at home and the tutor will supplement it at school.
- Math Olympiads is starting next year. A parent has started a math enrichment class -- only 16 children were selected from 4th and 5th grade, based on test scores. The school is hoping to grow that program next year. No communication prior. Would be excellent to hear about it in advance.
- Math Olympiads program is brand new. If more people knew, we might have more volunteers and be able to include more kids. Volunteer brought it to Lorona and started it. Now we will need more people next year.
- Conferences are coming up March 9-17th.
- NO homework March 2nd

- District calendar for next year is available.
- Facilities – we need repair. Roof, paint, hooks, new perimeter fence, maker space coming by opening of next year.

Teacher Reports:
Kindergarten is currently studying all about history! In our GLAD unit we are focusing on MLK Jr, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We are working hard on our informative writing genre... writing all about penguins, groundhogs and more! In math we are working on decomposing numbers, using number bonds and beginning subtraction skills. Sulphur Creek visited with Winter animals, our favorite was the chinchilla! Los Gatos Bird Watchers visited to teach us all about owls! We dissected owl pellets and found real bones from rodents and birds inside the pellet! We LOVED Global School Play Day! Our kinder kids loved being messy and unstructured in their play. We celebrated our 100th day of school and Valentines days too. In STEAM we are learning to code with Mrs. Chia and our Ozobots!

First grade was full of love this week! We love celebrating Valentine's Day. We celebrated the 100th day of school along with Groundhog Day. The children participated in lots of fun activities helping to make concrete, the concept of 100. We participated in the Global School Play Day where the children got to play for one day at school. It really was eye-opening to see the children play, completely non-directed by the teacher and with no electronics. We all enjoyed seeing them just play and be creative! The students enjoyed sharing cards and treats. Also, each class has had a chance to write code for Ozobots in the STEAM lab with Mrs. Chia. We loved it and can't wait to have our own STEAM lab at Carlton. Phew, we've been busy!

At the end of January, second grade went to the Sunnyvale Theater to see a live play called 'Just So Stories'. We ate lunch and played outdoor games as part of the trip. Getting ready for Valentine's Day is the highlight in second grade at the moment. We decorated valentine boxes; made 'Heart Maps' reflecting on things we love, and did some valentine writing. Students are involved with research projects, becoming experts on topics they are passionate about. During 'Genius Hour', students research facts from books and online articles and create Google Slides. After research is complete, students will teach classmates about their topic with a Google Slide presentation. Benchmark tests are being administered due to approaching parent/teacher conferences.

Third grade is in the middle of their wax museum presentations! Two classes performed on Tuesday and the other three classes are on Thursday. The students are so excited to dress up and give their speeches. Parents love watching and seeing all the students show off their hard work. This is a great project that the third grade teachers enjoy every year. We are continuing informative writing and are now comparing two non-fiction articles in a single text. We are in the middle of our fraction unit, and the students are working hard to grasp these new concepts. Each class has integrated technology into their classrooms, and we are all using Google

forms to check in daily with the students, Google slides to collaborate on projects and Google classroom to complete assignments. Students especially love STEAM days and doing hands-on projects in the classroom.

4th grade just went on a field trip to Mission San Juan Batista! The kids loved seeing their research in real life. At STEAM lab the kids are creating at 22nd mission in Minecraft based on what they learned about from their study of missions. In math, the students are learning how to convert from mixed numbers to improper fractions using visual models such as tape diagrams, number bonds, and number lines. We love how they are gaining multiple strategies for solving problems!

5th grade had a great time at camp. The rainy weather made our trip quite an adventure. We are creating science camp memory books to document our fantastic week. In math we are working on multiplying and dividing fractions. All classes are working with Mrs. Chia in the steam lab on badges using the makey makeys. It is fun to see the creative programs students are coding to present their projects to the class.

4th grade fundraising (Fundraising for 2018 Science Camp and End-of-Year Party) update:

- Due to a change in policy, students are now allowed to raise money to go directly towards their own Science Camp tuition. Money raised by 5th graders at next year's Walk-a-Thon will be used for Science Camp. Historically there is low participation from 5th graders, so this should not hurt the general fund, but hopefully will increase 5th grade participation. Fifth graders will need an individual account manager to keep track of the amount each child raises..
- Other community events organized by the families of current 4th graders will raise money towards the 2018 5th grade end-of-year party.

Rummage/craft sale idea – Originally the idea of a rummage sale was going to be a way to raise money for next year's fifth grade science camp. However, the school district has changed its policy on how students can raise money for science camp, so this no longer makes sense as a fundraiser for that. Our community is excited about this sale, so we will still have it as a community event rather than as a fundraiser. We will charge $20 to have a booth, which should cover the permit and cost of paying a janitor. The sale will be held March 18th

Agenda items for next month: survey, nominating committee/positions that need to be filled, budget planning, auction update

Adjourned at 10:20 am.