Carlton Home and School Club Meeting
April 19, 2017, 8:27 am

Present:

Vice President: Nicole Cione-Baker, Treasurer: Brandi Mincey, Community Co-chair: Kulwinder Sandhu, Secretary: Sarah Tiglao, Programs Chair: Maki Hirata
Principal: Lisa Lorona, Superintendent: Denise Clay
Community Members: Vicki Wooledge, Rachel Zanger, Maureen Currie, Katie Currie, Lisa Allen, Euli Oh, Lara Panish, Vanessa Michaelsen, Bill Michaelsen, Jennifer Watanabe, Paula Stokes

Regrets: President: Denise Kranich, Community Co-chair: Missy Romero

Meeting called to order by Nicole Cione-Baker at 8:27 am

March Meeting minutes: There was a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. All approved.

What's Working?

- New crossing guard is very helpful and getting a great response from our community.
- HSC very proactive and responsive.
- Basket Bingo was a great event.

Superintendent Denise Clay gave a presentation about the upcoming work at our school:

- There is a lot of construction coming up. She thanks us for our patience. Each piece depends on other pieces, so every time there has been a hold up anywhere it has caused delays to everything that needs to get done. They are hoping to do the roof before painting. Roofing will be a tremendous process. The roof has been preventing everything else from happening. The work will be done this summer at Carlton.
- **Maker Space** – She took all 6 for district to the architects at same time. Some schools were approved as they were, but Carlton and some others needed some other issues addressed before the plan could be approved. At Carlton there were issues with fire access. The plan has been modified and it was just approved. She hopes work will begin mid-June. (They made sure to accommodate the memorial trees on campus, which should not be damaged.) A Door will be added to the media center to allow access.
- **Solar update** – The district PG&E bill is around $700,000 per year. Buying solar panels out of bond funds seems like a good way to save money in future. The savings would then stay in the general fund, 80% of which goes to salaries. Originally, they had thought we could choose the location of the solar panels, but actually it is a complex matter where they are able to work best and provide the best financial gain. The solar panels will be put outside

the classrooms in the back of the school in between the lower and upper playgrounds.

- **Pick up and drop off safety** – She is looking into ways to help with these issues. People need to direct the traffic. We can remove some of the Junipers and increase parking. Possibly could add a second lane of drop off. There are a number of things that could be done to improve traffic and safety. The district is trying to work with city and put pressure to prioritize fixing the pot holes, etc. along the back fence. That is city land and the district is not allowed to fix it..
- She talked about trying to make it more clear where the front office is so that visitors go there.
- **Fencing project goal:** to be able to close off the front of the school, so people are funneled through front office, but still keep it looking attractive and appealing. Adding fencing has to go through Department of State Architects (DSA). Repairing fencing is ok.
- **Painting Questions for the Community:** Do we want the cursive Carlton sign to stay or leave? Murals can stay or go. We need to decide if there is anything we want to keep or if we want everything painted.
- **Explanation of how bond funds work:** the Bond is an assessment on property values. They are assessed every year. The district only gets money year by year, but banks can issue loans based on the funds that will come from the bond. Technology was very expensive. Wishlists was $250 mill worth of stuff. We got half of what they wanted. The district can only fund highest priorities with bond money.

Basket Bingo Update: Many thanks for making it a success.

- We had very generous sponsors.
- Sold out of all food in the first 45 minutes.
- Over 50 families bought presale tickets.
- $2000 in sales for tickets
- Great support – basket process with teachers and room parents went well.
- So many teachers were there. (There had been a sign up just for teachers.)
- Thanks to Brandi for updating the website about all the information.
- Consolation prizes were a big hit.
- There were 29 baskets total – 2 were sponsored by CHSC (and came out of Basket Bingo's budget)
- The mystery basket was a huge hit.
- The event raised $5,840 profit.
- This event makes it clear that we need a larger room on our campus.
- See photos below
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Auction Update: Auction leads could not attend the meeting, but they had briefed Nicole Cione-Baker and Brandi Mincey, who reported back:

- There were huge changes to the event this year: different (more expensive venue), new auction lead volunteers (who deserve our thanks), new theme, etc.
- The auction made a $11,000 profit, which is a significant decrease from past years.
- $28,000 total came in. Expenses were $17,000. A few things are still coming in, so the final numbers will change a little.
- Last year's profit was $38,000
- There was a discussion of why the profit was so much lower this year. With all the changes this year, it was hard to predict how it would go. We were in a position financially to try something new.
    - Venue and casino costs where high, which contributed to fewer funds being raised.
- Recommendations to improve for next year:
    - Having a fundraising chair on the CHSC board.
    - More help from CHSC in regards to communication, guiding volunteers, streamlining and making it more successful.
    - More marketing of the event.
- Looking forward, we need to decide if we want to keep doing annual auctions:
    - According to our survey results, our community wants more family events.
    - We offer a tremendous number of ways to participate. Perhaps it is too much to expect a large number of people to come out to an auction when there are so many other events to participate in.
    - What does our community want? (Noddin's HSC held a casual $35 per person auction at a cabana club that raised lots of money. Alta Vista did an $80 ticket at the JCC. We need to figure out what is right for the Carlton community.)
    - There is some concern that as a nonprofit, we can't just throw parties for ourselves, but have a responsibility to make sure our profit margin is good. Still any new event needs to be done a few times in order to assess if it is working.
- The board extended a huge thank you to the auction organizers for working so hard and putting on such a fun event!
- Board members also expressed concern that 2 years in a row, the lead volunteers organizing the auction don't want to do it again. We don't want volunteers to feel so defeated after the amount of work they have put in.
- The board is looking to provide more support to lead volunteers in the future, so that they don't feel so overwhelmed.

Financial Update:

- We currently have $148,980.29 in the bank.
- In the general fund there is $121,099.75.

- It is estimated that we will end the year with $60,000. However, we probably won't spend as much as we have allocated or receive as much income as originally predicted, which means we will probably be closer to $80,000 at end of year. We are making a good dent in the surplus.

Budget Prep for next year: Board members have begun examining the budget and thinking about ways we might change the budget for next year.

- The special project line item hasn't been used much.
- We are thinking of increasing teacher allocations and decreasing special project requests.
- We are also considering adding a grade level special project line to meet collaborative grade level projects needs.
- The difficult thing is that there are things people in our community want that Home and School Club are not legally allowed to pay for such as personnel.
- This year, all funds that CHSC gave towards RTI have gone pay for supplies, not to pay the tutors. However, other schools do have Home and School Club pay for tutors.
- This year, we have/are in the process of meeting most of the needs the community prioritized in our first survey.
    - We are still going forward with constructing shade on the intermediate side on the edge of the blacktop next to the track. We will contribute up to $25,000 and the district will cover related "soft costs."
    - We have been working for months with parents and the district to repair the playground.
    - Hooks will be added by the district this summer, but we worked to help bridge the gap during this school year.
    - We have addressed the majority of the needs communicated by the community. We are looking to send out another survey to see what else people want done.
- We have budgeted a lot of money to spend. Programs and enrichment cost almost $90,000
- At this point, we are spending more than we are bringing in and we are not wasting money, so we do need to work to ensure that we continue to have the funds necessary for basic operating.
- We can look into possibly having more smaller fundraisers rather than large scale fundraisers since people have expressed that they want family events.
- We also need to decide how much emphasis we want to put on fundraising vs. community building.

Buddy Benches: The benches were installed and Project Cornerstone has been working to communicate to students and teachers what they are meant for. All cornerstone readers are having students take a pledge to be buddy bench friends. They also are distributing 700 bookmarks to students about the benches.

Special Project Requests:

- 2 special projects came in over the last month:
    - Ms. Fox and Ms. Peterson requested $73 to buy costume materials for the Big Buddy/Little Buddy play. This request was approved over email.
    - Ms. Powell requested a new magazine rack because the one in her classroom is broken. We looked into whether it is possible to get this from the district, but the district only provides basic furniture like desks and chairs. We found one for $150 that Ms. Powell is happy with. All board members present approved.
- One additional request is going to be coming in. Ms. Rose is requesting $445 for a new rug and an art drying rack. The board decided to look into whether other classrooms need drying racks and will vote on this request over email.
- Cornerstone request – Project Cornerstone requests that schools raise about $1 per student to help fund the program. This would be about $700 from Carlton. However, if we raise $1000, we would get a special Cornerstone banner. The request for $1000 was approved. Next year, this should be included in the Cornerstone line item.

Multicultural event:

- 18 countries will be represented. There will be performers, a sing along, passports for kids and prizes. It is going to be a great event.
- Naomi is doing an amazing job.
- The first 400 children will get passports.

Principal Report:

- Volunteer, teacher, and classified of the year: volunteer of the year is Maureen Currie, Teacher of the year is Gwen Fox. (Teachers voted for her for a second year in a row because she wasn't recognized by district last year due to the union negotiations that were taking place at the time.) Classified of the year: Ginger Manly
- Carlton is participating in the relay for life – April 28th-29th. It will encourage healthy lifestyles – a different booth each day at recess. Goal to make $100
- Cornerstone "take it personal" workshop at Lietz for parents.
- Girls Leadership – a speaker is going to come and do workshop for parents. It is about building resilient girls, but the tools will also be useful for boys. Parents requested that Ms. Lorona look into bringing a similar speaker about boys and she is looking into it.
- During basket bingo, we realized one of our audio speakers is broken. We need to replace it. Cost about $300/350 per speaker. Ms. Lorona will get back to us with a request to replace what is needed.
- Fourth and fifth grade students will be participating in "character workshops" unless parents submitted forms opting out. These workshops will be lead by a licensed therapist and are meant to build on what is being taught in Cornerstone. The sessions will be just a few children at a time and

last about 20-25 minutes. They will do a fun activity having to do with being a good friend.

Next year's board – statements of intent have been submitted to the nominating committee as of the Friday prior to this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Teacher Reports:

Kindergarten teachers enjoyed the time to catch up with families during our parent teacher conferences. We love sharing all the highlights! In math we have been working on addition and subtraction, including word problems! We are solving our answers with differences strategies and tools (ten frames, ten sticks, rekenreks). In ELA we are beginning to practice our reading skills and our last writing genre (opinion). We are now independent writers!! We loved our first field trip to Hidden Villa Farm! We loved the bus ride and petting all the farm animals. We are working on our GLAD unit all about the farm. Sulphur Creek Nature Center visited with animals from the farm. We love the up close interactions with animals. Our Big buddies helped us celebrate Spring with an egg hunt too. We are busy Kindergarteners!

First grade is having a ball this spring. We just received butterflies (thank you Rita and Home and School Club.) We will start our butterfly unit soon. Right now we are working on Oviparous Animals and getting ready for Earth Day. We loved our field trip to Vasona Park where we went on a nature walk and met some critters (chinchilla, Toad, beetle and a newt.) We followed up the next day with opinion writing. The students convinced us whether or not we should go back to Vasona next year. Little do they know, we are going :) Next up We will begin planning for Dancefest, our music performance and Frog and Toad. Wow, spring is busy!

Second grade has started a new module in math learning all about equal groups and arrays (the beginning of multiplication, very exciting). They have also begun their new writing for trimester three, and have written about which pet is better, a cat or a dog. Their next writing is about Minecraft: Should it be used in schools or not? Students are beginning a short unit on Earth Day and learning how to take care of our Earth, using Dr. Suess' The Lorax. Second graders are also having a wonderful time creating their own books for the Young Author's Faire. All of second grade is looking forward to the next few big events, especially practicing for Dancefest!

Third grade is continuing to work on our opinion writing using non-fiction text to formulate and support opinions. Students are thinking about their science projects and will begin to work on them soon. The goal of the project is to complete an investigation using the scientific method. Third graders will also continue to

prepare for the SBAC using online and paper practice tests. The teachers feel confident the students will do a fantastic job, as we have been preparing all year.

Fourth grade is excited to go to the Tech Museum this Friday where they will experiment with hands on science, learn about the Physics of Rollercoasters and then work in groups to design one, and watch an IMAX movie on severe weather! Students are also eagerly learning the songs on their recorders for our spring concert. Art Vistas rotations just finished up some really cool Picasso pictures that the kids got to create. Students are getting ready for SBAC testing by practicing in class.

We began our bridge project for the science fair this week. Students are working in groups to design and build a bridge out of toothpicks. We are writing opinion essays where students are reading several articles on a particular subject, and then writing a 4-5 paragraph essay discussing their opinion on the issue. In social studies students are either just beginning or are in the middle of our unit on the American Revolution.

Basket Bingo Pictures:










