

Cabot PTO Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Location: Cabot Lunchroom  
Time: 8:35 a.m.  
Present: Erin Edwards, Vanessa Allen, Lindsay Pike, Lisa Adams, Valerie Gopinath  
Eunice Feller, Suzanne Wakefield, Kim van Essen – Horsnell, Andrea Steenstrup,  
Vineeta Vijayaraghavan, Jennifer Borhegyi, Emily Shumsky, Jen Abbott

Item I: 2014-2015 So Far ...

- Purchased fans
  - can't put fans in the classrooms; bought 12 new fans (Lou bought 8); every classroom has fans
- Teachers' Room Re-do
  - new curtains; has been redone
  - old chairs taking up space – will be collected
- Summer Playdates
  - One playdate cancelled due to rain
  - Second was a huge success – Kim Horsnell and one other organized it
  - Good feedback from parents
- Welcome Picnic
  - First date cancelled due to rain last week
  - Rescheduled; low attendance but worked out nicely so new families had a chance to talk with one another
- Morning Greetings for kindergarten parents on the first day of school for A&B groups
- Welcome Packets
  - assembled by Vanessa and family
- Dues Campaign
  - Changed from \$28 to \$30
  - Can pay on website CabotPTO.org or checks made out to Cabot PTO
- Back to School Night
  - PTO greetings
  - Food donations for parents - Thanks to food providers
  - Teacher appreciation committee – thank you for the food that was provided for teachers!

Item II: Volunteer Opportunities

- 2 Co-presidents needed, 2 year commitment: to work with and shadow Vanessa and Erin this year and relieve Vanessa and Erin next year (2015-16 SY)
  - Suggestion to have a mini campaign to break down the role a little bit
  - The list of activities/events/ committees will be revisited/ revised – “a cleanup” of the list of responsibilities e.g. If no interest in family dance, could drop it
  - Trying to limit fundraising
  - There will be a spelling bee this year (Ella Reid Fourth grade wrote letter)
  - Erin – Looking for ideas on ways to trim things down e.g. will eliminate recycling from this year’s Cabot Fair
- Assistant Treasurer – 1+ volunteer, 2 year commitment, Assistant in 2014-15 SY, Treasurer in 2015-16 SY
- Cabot Fair Co-Chairs - 4 volunteers, 2 year commitment, now – 2015-16 SY)
- Picked up some sign ups from Back to School night
  - for the Cabot Fair – four people are needed
  - got 2 bites for Treasurer
- Cabot Fair Raffle
  - at least 2+ volunteers/ organizers needed to run this event
  - 2 year commitment, now – 2015-16 SY
- Understanding Our Differences: 3 and 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Cabot Soccer Camp
- Invention Invasion Apprentice– Rick Bottino volunteered
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Social Action committee
  - Sep 30 or Oct 1 meeting at Jen Abbott’s house
- Room parents needed – several rooms parents needed; Jacqueline Badeau is the room parent coordinator

Item III: Upcoming Events/ Fundraisers

- Dues Campaign Fall Fundraiser - going on now thru end of Sep
- CASP/PTO School Art Fundraiser: with Square 1 – help from Christine Phillips

- Orders in before Thanksgiving – can order necklaces, pictures, etc.
  - K-3 – Christine Phillips is having kids do the art in class
  - 4-5 – can have proceeds go to CASP or Cabot depending on enrollment
- Cabot T-shirt sale – Brenna Green and Katie Bowler organizers
  - order forms out next week and available at Community Supper
  - will encourage students to order/ wear Green T-shirts on field trips
- Cabot Community Supper on Sep 16
- Picture Day Sep 19 – need volunteers
- CASP movie night – Sep 26, Toy Story; Cabot is helping to fund that event
  - No committee
  - Toy Story
  - No rain date
- Committee Chair meeting Sep 30, evening, at Erin Edwards’ house
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent meetings 9/30 and 10/1
- Library Volunteer Coffee– Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

Item IV: New Business

- Voting - School council 2014-15 SY candidates
  - 2 candidates with 4-5 meetings to attend including Oct 8, Nov 12, Mar 11, May 13
  - Need balanced representation of staff and students
  - Need to nominate 3 candidates: Phoebe, Emily, Jen
  - Meetings 2nd Wed of each month
  - primary mission to look at school improvement
  - Motion to elect Phoebe Olhava, Emily Shumsky, Jen Thomas– (Vanessa)
  - Seconded the motion – (Marie Callahan)
  - Vote by raising hands
  - Motion passed
- Parking lot – cars blocking walkway, calls to DPW
  - Emily Norton, our ward rep has been helping with enforcement
  - City Van blocking/ parking on the sidewalk on Bridges Ave – strollers could’ pass – Stephen Regan, Building Maintenance
  - Staff cars blocking the walkways parking perpendicular to the playground fence
  - custodian called DPW

- Parking issue – Lisa
  - In blue zone – cars need to pull all the way up to the sign rather than stop and block the road or the crosswalk
- Enforcement of not texting and driving is needed, especially at the corner of Parkview and Cabot streets as per crossing guard
  - crossing guard spoke
  - problem at the crosswalk when turning right at the signal of the crossing guard from Parkside onto Cabot street; drivers texting at the stop and not looking up to see signal/instructions from the crossing guard
- Safe Routes/ Political Issues
  - Last year the city did a poor job salting and with snow removal
  - Annette / Allie – Cabot reps for Safe Routes to School; meet monthly; law enforcement attends

Other discussion around this topic

- City ordinance requiring plowing of certain sidewalks – can use 311 to report non-compliance
- Suggested email to parents with rules/ regulations for blue zone
- A committee needs to be formed
- Erin – Lou is already planning this
- Letter should come from Lou with a map – include the part about how K parents need to park and walk
- There needs to be a sign too for the yellow zone for the school bus
- Could be put on the new families page
- Could be sent home in the back pack
- Start time of school –
  - Parents need to be patient
  - teachers don't have a contract right now
  - new blacktop entrance process: 3rd floor first, then 2nd floor, then first floor
- The school start time changed to start at 8:25, but cannot change when kids are allowed into the building
- There are Specials starting at 8:30
- Phoebe – bused students are late
- Lisa – have the fifth graders make signs for opening the doors according to the new process for entry from the blacktop
- List of people who would like to be on the committee to help with parking issue (Vanessa's log book)
- Pumping room
  - Can put bulletin board
  - Comfy chair – Lindsay has an upright chair to donate
  - Small table is needed
  - Currently the pumping room is a storage closet
  - Bulletin board

Item V: Next meeting 6 – 7:30 pm, Oct 9:

- Room Parent “BOOTCAMP”; 5<sup>th</sup> grade - pizza and childcare provided

Item VI: Budget Update

- last meeting: budget approved
- will add line item on teacher’s room expense
- have extra funds partly due to equity caps on tech spending
- will revise based on summer spending and equity cap
- end of last year: trying to buy rugs; request for 12 rugs approx. \$1,500

Item VII: Public Comment and Ideas for Applying Extra Funds

- some teachers have more students than there are chair pockets – PTO will buy the extras
- Core Values night (March) – consider paying outside professionals to do that
- Erin – had been talking with Yvonne Borrero
  - What an executive functioning classroom looks like; what does an exec functioning home look like? – Sara Ward holds these workshops, expensive
- Other ideas
  - Social emotional – workshop – parent book group on raising kids
  - Mindfulness/ anxiety – Judi Fitts, 5th grade teacher currently has this in her curriculum
  - Program enrichment grant; Program enrichment during school hours is capped; Program enrichment w/ parents/kids outside of school hours is uncapped
  - Committee to be formed: Lisa Adams, Jacqueline Badeau, Marie Callahan plus one other for social/ emotional program enrichment
- Jen Abbott - Zervas renovations– how will this affect the Cabot timeline?
  - Other alternatives for swing space
  - We should jump on opportunities to advocate for ourselves
  - Can get information from Lou on this matter

Motion to adjourn (Vanessa)

- Lisa seconded the motion
- Motion to adjourn passed

- Meeting adjourned