

Swarthmore Rutledge School
Home and School Association Meeting
April 15, 2009

ATTENDEES: Linda Armour, Sharon Graham, Jodi Dawes, Kate Crawford, Brooke Penders, Mary Murray, Lauren McKinney, Sally Fullam, Tracy Federico, Marj Hatzell, Jennifer Vincent, Kathryn Mehan, Elma Jones, Stephenie Bailey, Tony Liu, Gary Davis, Laura Maola

TREASURER: *Linda Armour for Sharon Mester*

- Both the book fair and the note cards were very successful and exceeded our goals
- The Silent Auction raised \$7,000 more than our goal. Everyone did such an awesome job!
- Note that the monies have been paid out on the silent auction already.
- We currently have \$15,000 in our account balance between now and the end of the year.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: *Dr. Gary Davis*

- Thanks to Home and School for all of their great activities recently to support SRS!
- Walnut Street theatre Company came in today with a great message leading into our "Turn off TV" week that is coming up. It was about being imaginative and not being tied to boxes.
- We received a \$2,600 grant from the Cultural Alliance to support our African Dance
- We did receive a \$3,000 Get Active grant but will use it next year.
- Teachers are doing curriculum mapping now and will use the May 19th in service day to map some more.
- Next year, second graders will begin a program called Ready Response to Intervention where, for 30 minutes each day, kids will be grouped by their reading ability and will work with different teachers, reading specialists, etc...to focus on their needs.
- Bill Kane's jogging club has started up.
- There is a jazz concert upcoming
- Arbor Day where we walk to the cherry garden at Swarthmore College is next week.
- There is an environmental patrol at SRS, comprised of fifth graders who will be going into the classrooms the week of April 27th to pitch the "reduce, reuse, recycle" message to students. There will also be a recycling competition the first week in May to see which classroom can recycle the most material.
- Volunteer appreciation coffee will be on May 22nd at 8 a.m. in the teacher's lounge. All are invited!
- The 3rd grade African dance will be June 5th
- So many parents had to stand last year for the moving up ceremony that this year only the fourth graders will be in attendance.
- We have a new Pizza Man program in the cafeteria where each week a class can earn a pizza man for good behavior. The first four classes have won a pizza lunch for April 20th!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Silent Auction: Linda Armour

- The Silent Auction raised \$17,000 – awesome job! In addition, a person came forward to donate an additional \$8,000 to raise the total to \$25,000 on new technology. Therefore, we were able to purchase everything on our wish list and then some:
 - Six smart boards – one for every grade and one in the tech lab
 - 21 digital projector - one for every classroom
 - 2 document cameras
- These items will be in the classroom before the end of the year and teachers will be trained on how to use them.

SAC: Jennifer Vincent

- Two people are moving off of SAC so we need two more parents to fill these spots. Meetings are the first or second Tuesday of each month at 7:45 a.m. The committee deals with all sorts of issues affecting SRS and the community. If interested, contact Jennifer Vincent.

Dimensions Social Studies: Sally Fullam

- A mock trial of Goldilocks was held with the support of SRS parents. As the grades increased, so did the complications in the trial. The students were the jury and expressed a desire to be even more involved next year. SRS even got some publicity out of it, with the Center for Representative Democracy putting the trial on their website, and also a link to it from the National Constitution Center.
- Our week-long focus on China with the primary grades has just ended. There was a feast, calligraphy, discussions on Chinese books, tai-chi. We purchased some DVDs as well.

Dimensions in Technology: Tony Liu

- Two digital microscopes have been purchased.
- Also purchased speakers for the media carts
- WSSD has a new website up and we are linked to it. There is now an outstanding question of how to build out the SRSkids website – stay separate or integrate with the district's site?

Dimensions in Art: Laura Maola

- The fifth grade project this year is a collection of books, where each singular piece is a part of the whole. This is the first graphic arts fifth grade project. Barbara Zuckerman is the artist.
- Each child will make two 5 inch by 5 inch books, one to take and one to leave.
- Each child has learned about different methods of binding
- Each child is selecting a word or idea and then will visually tell the story in the book
- They are now collecting images to represent the words
- A unique bookcase is also being built to house the books, which will be kept initially in the hallway to the cafeteria and then in the library.

Dimensions in Math: Linda Armour for Beth DeBruyn

- Te@M night was a great success!

Dimension in Science – Linda Armour

- We didn't have a lot of visiting scientists this year and we'd love to get more in-house next year.

Grants – Brooke Penders

- We didn't get the jogging club grant this year but it automatically goes into next year's cycle.
- We are putting in for a grant for worm composting for first grade
- Best Buy will have some staff volunteering at our family dinner on May 1. For every volunteer hour, Best Buy donates \$100.
- We are pursuing a Target grant that may pay for our jazz musician next year and perhaps a second grade field trip to Chinatown.
- There is a grant for Earth Day from Wal-Mart where we have to show what we do to support Earth Day every day in our school.
- Playground grant might come this summer.
- Anyone can put in to recognize a teacher and get not only money for our school, but recognition for the teacher.
- WHYY is doing a drawing for a telescope – anyone can put in SRS' name for it. Go to www.whyy.org/community/telescopecontest.html and enter our address: 100 College Ave, Swarthmore, PA 19081 Phone: 610-544-5700

Family Dinner Dance – Tracy Federico

- The theme is Hoedown at the SRS Corral!
- We will have a square dancing group who will provide entertainment, give lessons, and also serve as the DJ.
- We are looking for a dunk tank and volunteers to be dunked – maybe teachers to raise money?
- We need volunteers to help set up beginning at 1 p.m. on May 1. If interested, send an email to Linda Martin.
- We still need a point person for decorations. Email Linda Martin if you can do this.

Teacher Initiative Fund Requests: Linda Armour

- Last month H&S tabled a request by the 4th grade teachers to purchase incubators while we investigated some more. It is about \$180 for the incubators and we would save \$20 per incubator by purchasing rather than renting. Teachers would clean and store the incubators themselves. The new ones have candling ability to see the embryo and the children will be able to experience turning the eggs.
 - **Motion:** to approve the purchase of five incubators at a cost of approximately \$902.50. Motion carries.
- Teacher request to purchase 2 single digit “24” games
 - **Motion:** to make purchase of 2 single digit “24” games. Motion carries.

- Last month H&S tabled a request to mount a TV in a classroom in order to investigate the impact on other teachers. It was determined that while only one teacher put in a request, ten other teachers would also want something similar. Each bracket is \$151 plus installation. There is the possibility that TV's will become obsolete in the room with the other technology that we are introducing. It was decided to hold off on the purchase at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Motion:** to approve slate of new officers for 2009 – 2010 school year. Motion approved.
- Next year the Rising Star will be online only.
- We have created a new Welcome Committee who will focus on making a smooth transition to SRS from The Kids Place and other incoming families. The committee may sponsor a parent coffee and a swim party at the Swim Club
- We are looking to do an all-school yearbook next year.
- We are trying a green initiative alongside Sally Foster.
- There was a discussion on starting up a public wish list of faculty at SRS that we can make available to parents for donations. This worked for the rug in the music room and could work for games, books, etc....It was decided to take steps to investigate this further.
- Thank you to H&S from all the teachers for the wonderful faculty lunch and the wish list idea at the book fair!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 21 – John Blake Jr. Educational Jazz Quartet
- April 22 – Special Person's breakfast – Primary Grades
- April 23 – Special Person's breakfast – Grades 3-5
- April 23 – Arbor Day at Scott Arboretum
- May 1 – Family Dinner Dance
- May 3 – Blue Rocks game
- May 8 – Field Day

NEXT MEETING

- May 20th at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Graham