

**Swarthmore Rutledge School
Home and School Association Meeting
May 7, 2008**

ATTENDEES: Beth DeBruyn, Linda Martin, Sharon Graham, Tony Liu, Sharon Mester, Mary Murray, Linda Armour, Jodi Dawes, Stacy Clements, Sara Ranck, Nicola Jefferson.

MINUTES:

- Minutes for February 13, 2008 and April 9, 2008 were read and approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- There was no Principal's report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SAC Committee:

- There have been discussions about changing the configuration of the blended 1-2 grades. The Superintendent is reviewing the proposals and will make a decision shortly.
- The dinner dance had about half the attendance of last year and about the same number of walk-ups. Therefore, it didn't raise as much money as last year but as a community builder, it was a success.
- There was a discussion about our money going to the American Cancer Society, which has extremely high administrative costs, which means that less goes to actual cancer research.
- There is a question on the status of gardening at SRS. Seasons of gardening don't necessarily work with the school year. Second grade teachers are working on their garden. We've had discussions with a local arborist on signage for our foliage.

Dimensions in Science

- This is a big program and we need a strong parent identified to get a new program moving, with Hands on Science going away.

Dimensions in Technology

- Great math/technology night last month. Consideration should be given to perhaps providing more for younger children.

Dimensions in Social Studies

- As a part of the primary on April 22, Dimensions in Social Studies sponsored a favorite book election at the same time as the Pennsylvania primaries. Calvin and Hobbes won.
- The 5th grade Blue Rock's game has been in this program for a few years and is always a money loser. Not sure why, but it might be because we have to buy tickets in bulk to secure the 5th grade singing of the anthem. One person has been

identified already to spearhead this event for next year. Since the Blue Rock's game is a 5th grade event, it will be moved out of Dimensions in Social Studies and moved to the 5th grade line item.

Dimensions in Art

- The art project is moving along without a hitch and will be installed in the hallway nearest the auditorium on time.

Treasurer

- All fundraising is done for the year. Sales lagged this year on our School Directory sales and Spirit Wear sales, which pulled down our income.
- There is still money left to be spent before the year end and many programs will still spend their money; however, some committees probably won't spend their money. We will most likely still come in under budget this year and move over approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 to surplus.
- There was a question on the SHHS scholarship \$300 line item. We were asked a few years ago by the High School to recognize five graduating high school students who came from SRS with a \$50 scholarship; all elementary schools provide this scholarship. This year, the scholarship request was for 6 and not 5.
- Home and School loaned Hands on Science \$900 last year to purchase the final kits. Once this money is paid back to the Home and School treasury, the remaining \$900 will go to the Home and School surplus.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Book Fair was a success; it raised about \$2,200 compared to \$2,500 last year; however we paid \$500 for the author to come and sign books. It was felt that bringing in the author and having to pay money to do that was not a good use of our funds and should be re-considered for next year. Perhaps we can partner with WES who brings in an author every other year.
- Note cards are due in on June 6
- Air cooling update – ceiling fans have been installed in the hallway on the 3rd floor and the teachers feel that this has really helped. Windows are being retrofitted to open wider. There will be a new protocol in place to open windows at night to allow the cooler air to come into the building

NEW BUSINESS:

Home and School Surplus

- What is the status of the Home and School surplus at this time? It was about \$12,500 at the start of the year; we may end up at about \$15,000 at the end of the year.
- Typical cushions for non-profits are about 6% of operating costs which means we should have a standing surplus of about \$6,000
- There has been a need for additional laptops and LCD computers so that each floor could have their own and not have to bring up or down the one current one that floats through the school. In order for the school district to support the

computers, the district would purchase the items and we would reimburse the district. The cost for two laptops, two carts, and two LCD projectors is \$3,259.30

Motion: to approve the purchase of two laptops, two carts, and two LCD projectors for a cost of \$3,259.30. Motion carries

Teacher Initiative Fund Request

- There is a balance right now of \$724. Some years, this money hasn't been spent, so this year teachers were asked for some "wish list" items that Home and School could purchase with the fund.
- The idea of the African Dance will move over to the new Assemblies committee for consideration next year.

Motion: to approve the purchase of the following items from the Teacher Initiative Fund:

- Games - \$134.44
- Books for Reading Specialists - \$150.00
- "We Both Read" series - \$119.80
- Pedometer Packs and Powerbooks - \$279.64
- Handheld Microphone - \$44.99

2008/2009 Budget:

- Budget is presented. The incoming presidents went to as many direct sources as possible to get funding accurate for upcoming year. The money raised from the silent auction will most likely go to new playground equipment. There may be a committee that will present ideas on possible items to add and keep it "out there" to raise interest.
- There was a suggestion to keep separate the "Grounds" line item from the "Playground" line item.

Motion - to accept the budget. Motion carries.

Nominating Committee

- There were some omissions from the slate presented last month. An updated list was provided

Upcoming Events:

- May 9 - Field Day; rain date May 16
- May 22 - Instrumental Concert
- June 12 – 5th grade moving up ceremony
- June 13 – last day of school; early dismissal

- There was discussion about combining the email list that Doug Hasbrouck uses with the srskids email blast list. Tony Liu will investigate.

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting will be in September...stay tuned.

Meeting Adjourned 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Graham