

**Swarthmore Rutledge School
Home and School Association Meeting
September 19, 2007**

ATTENDEES

Gary Davis, Linda Martin, Beth DeBruyn, Sharon Graham, Linda Armour, Mary Murray, Kristin Ross, Deanna Benner, Sally Paynter, Marcia Hiehle, Sawsan Abbadi, Ruth Bock, Sara Ranck, Brian Murphy, Marj Hatzell, Jen Giovannicci, Paula DeRosa, Katie Schultz, Laura Maola, Carina Yervasi, Nicola Jefferson, Mimi Spangler, Beatrice Dickinson, Colin Purrington, Tony Liu, MC Petras

MC Petras handed around thank you cards and goodies for the HSA as a way to say “thank you” from the teachers for the funds available through the teacher start up fund and the teacher initiation fund.

MINUTES

- The minutes of the May 9, 2007 and August 28, 2007 were voted and approved.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

- The school year is off to a smooth start
- In August, SRS hired 12 new staff who are fitting in well. There are 10 new assistants and 2 new faculty, both in the 5th grade. There is also now a full time inclusion teacher for kids with special needs.
- For special education, there are now five teachers and the inclusion teacher. WE have a strong program at SRS and score proficient or advanced for special needs children on the PSSA.
- We are into our 2nd year for the bully prevention program. Student kickoff will be October 18 with the parent kickoff on October 25. Dr. Davis is asking for a core group of parents to form a committee to think of ways to get parents out and involved for the event on October 25. It is essential that we all be on the same page with bully awareness. Dr. Davis would like the committee to generate creative ideas to ensure parents come to the October 25 kickoff. If interested, let Dr. Davis know.
- 1st through 5th grade are into Everyday Math now – in its second full year. There is a math instructional team at the district who are doing a great job.
- There is a site-based school advisory committee who is working on developing the relationship between the teachers and parents. A survey will go out after Back to School Night to both parents and teachers. Dr. Davis will review the responses to establish guidelines that will assist in the communications between parents and teachers.
- We have several grants. One helps to defray the cost of the African dance program; another helps to pay for the Walnut Street Theatre program for the primary grades. We have two other grants pending at this time.
- After School Programs:
 - Hand on Science is in its third (and final) year at SRS.
 - Artworks will also be returning
 - Foreign Language may be coming to SRS (more information below)

- Back to School Night is late, which is a good thing as it allows teachers to get a better feel for the children and the class.
- Back to School Picnic is September 20. There is a 5th grade pizza fund raiser and the student talent show.
- The Halloween Parade will be at 2 p.m. on October 20.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dan Natterman – WSSD Food Services Director, Aramark

- Prior to this new contract, all food was ordered to, and created at, the high school and then shipped to each facility. Now, we have on-site ordering and preparation right at SRS. This is a unique change and it is taking time for the kitchen staff to adapt. That is expected.
- Staff have been given recipes and training. There are more staff available in the lunchroom.
- There are not as many alternates available for children to choose from at this time. The intent is to back up nutritional messages that are in the classroom. More alternatives will be added as staff become comfortable with the menu options.
- Aramark is following the more-stringent state nutritional guidelines.
- There is a breakfast program available from the time the first bus arrives (approximately 8:15 a.m.) until about 15 minutes after the last bus arrives. Cost is \$1
- Aramark is encouraging the purchase now of only weekly tickets (\$11.25), as they are preparing to go to a meal card, rather than meal ticket, program on October 17. In the new program, every student will get a 4-digit PIN to access their account. Mr. Natterman and the district are working on ways to ensure the children know and remember their PIN. There will be an internet site to support the program so that you can see the balance of your account and know when to send in additional funds. The card will be available for both meals and snacks (limit of no more than 2 snacks at a time)
- The menu is on a 21-day cycle, so there are times when the main meal (i.e. ham sandwich) may be similar to the alternate (i.e. ham wrap). This is because the cycle overlaps during this month; there is no plan to change the cycle to avoid this overlap. Most likely, the next month will not overlap.
- Question on adding back in bagel and cream cheese option? No plans to add it back in at this time.
- The soft pretzel machine is just starting now; first delivery came in this week

Mark Linkins, WSSD Director of Curriculum

- The Foreign Language program (FLES) has been discontinued by the school district and we are now investigating after school options.
- The most successful after school program is at Wallingford Elementary School and we are looking to bring that model here so that we have comparable offerings at all schools in the district.
- There will be a fee; however, there are ways that the cost can be defrayed.
- There will be a minimum of three classes available per school, and it is preferred that at least one be non-European.
- The district will purchase materials and support the program. The program will have a language and a cultural component.

- The course will not be cumulative, but will be basic each time it is offered. It is expected that there will be three offerings of three classes each throughout the school year.
- Class size at WES is 15-17. District can investigate a before-school option if needed.
- Instructors will receive a stipend.
- We are pursuing parents or other adults as teachers; however, the district does have a list of high school students who have been identified as qualified to lead a class with adult assistance.
- If you are interested in being an instructor or on-site coordinator, email Mark at mlinkins@wssd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- September 20 – Back to School Picnic
- September 21 - the deadline to place an advertisement in the school directory.
- The improvement to the teacher lounge was a success!
- The playground will be receiving new equipment, courtesy of HSA, shortly.
- There will be a satisfaction survey sent around for Home and School.
- Please save newspapers and old clothes for the scarecrow building activity at the Fall Festival.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- *Sally Foster* – fundraiser information will be sent home on September 20. This is our single-biggest school fundraiser, where we get 50% back on every sale. You can even order through the website after the official close of the fundraiser and have the money directed to the school.
- *Spirit Wear* – coming soon! There will be T-shirts, lanyards, backpacks, bracelets with the four cornerstones, car magnet, Croc charms. You can get all but the T-shirt for \$20.
- *Dimensions in Technology* – will look at working with teachers and the librarian on the website. Possibility of a technology night at the school, or promoting girls in technology. Also investigating the idea of cataloguing all of the art that currently hangs in the school. We need volunteers to assist with the website that HSA runs, www.srskids.org.

NEW BUSINESS

- *PAGE* – New organization in the district promoting gifted education. Lauren McKinney and Marcia Hiehle are organizers. There will be a program on October 17 in which Mark Linkins, WSSD Director of Curriculum, will present on gifted education in our district; the program is in the library at SRS at 7 p.m.

OPEN ISSUES

None

ADJOURN

8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

/s/

Sharon Graham