

**Swarthmore Rutledge School
Home and School Association Meeting
October 15, 2008**

ATTENDEES

Linda Armour, Mary Murray, Sharon Graham, David Smuts, Tony Liu, Dr. Gary Davis, Kevin Stahler, Natalia Volz, Laura Maola, Beth Murray, Ruth Bock, Sara Ranck, Carlin McCoy, Lisa Starr, Stacey Clements, Jodi Dawes, Katie Crawford

MINUTES:

- Minutes for September 15, 2008 were read and conditionally approved.
- The minutes will be posted on the web at www.srskids.org

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Dr. Gary Davis

- The school district is considering a lot of energy saving proposals throughout all schools
- There was a science explorers assembly on October 8 and an after school program is beginning, thanks to a suggestion by an SRS parent. You can sign up online for the Science Explorer program.
- Also as after school activities, so far there will be:
 - Chess Club
 - Jogging Club
 - Homework Club
 - Math Club
- We received our 4th grade science testing results and 95% of our children are advanced or proficient in sciences
- The budgeting process has already begun for next year
- We have one volunteer for the district wellness committee. We can still take others. The next meeting is on November 10th at 3:30 at the Middle School Library.
- Mock student elections will be held on November 3.
- The November 4th in-service for teachers will focus on writing and technology
- There are awesomely decorated pumpkins in the office. Come check them out! They will be auctioned off at the Fall Festival.

TREASURER: Mary Murray for Sharon Mester

- Corporate/Retail has reached nearly 1/3rd of their fundraising goal this year so far.
- \$250 for Wii console for Kevin Stahler's special needs classes

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SAC Committee: Carlin McCoy

- The committee discussed the benefits of having children maintain a sleep diary. This will be explored a bit more and teachers will investigate if they can incorporate it into their day.
- SAC has met with the Swarthmore College orchestra and are exploring ways to get SRS involved with the orchestra rehearsals

- SAC also met with the Swarthmore College arboretum coordinator, who is very interested in outreach and education. Teachers will investigate if they can incorporate it into their day.
- SAC had a conversation about moving away from plastic bottles. To that end, stainless steel water bottles will be available for purchase, at costs, at the Fall Festival. Bags that you can carry and use (rather than plastic or paper) will also be available for sale. For the water bottles, Home and School advanced the money and will recoup the cost.

Dimensions in Technology: Tony Liu

- 2 parents have come forward to inquire about this Dimensions for next year

Dimensions in Art: Laura Maola

- There are 3 co-chairs for the 5th grade project this year. They have an artist in mind and a really neat project in the works. More details will follow
- Every other year the primary grades do an art project. This year is a down year
- Dimensions in Art also maintains the art collection throughout the school. Some repair work needs to be done this year, and we want to spend some time marking artwork, too.
- The next project is to catalogue the art collection, and to perhaps create a guided tour with brochures, or a videography. Interested parents willing to volunteer their time and creativity, please contact Laura Maola at lauram62@comcast.net.
- Dimension in Art also supports Art Goes to School, whereby volunteers bring art and art history in lesson format to schools. This happens two times a year in each elementary school in the district and once in the middle school
- Dimensions in Art also does support special teacher projects when asked

Dimensions in Math: Linda Armour for Beth DeBruyn

- There will be a combined math/science/technology night on November 20th from 6 – 9 p.m. and a Career Day on December 4th. Plenty of parent volunteers are needed for both.

Dimensions in Social Studies: Linda Armour for Sally Fullam

- There will be a mock election on November 3. Mayor Eck Gerner will be visiting classrooms and speaking to the children.
- October 27 there will be an after school program to design campaign posters for the election to get out the vote. Parent volunteers are needed. If interested please contact Sally Fullam at fullam@verizon.net.

Dimensions in Science: Linda Armour for Debora Hoffman

- Please continue to reach out and support our visiting scientist program.

Fall Festival: Linda Armour

- Committee chairs are asking that you save up newspaper and old clothes to make scarecrows at the event. You do have to bring your own clothes to make a scarecrow – Goodwill store is an option

Silent Auction: Linda Armour for Beth DeBruyn

- There have been two meetings so far. The goal is to raise \$10,000 for the playground.

School Directory: Lisa Starr

- \$4,979 in advertising was sold this year. Directories are due in next week.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 24 – Fall Festival
- October 28 – Science Explorers after school science program begins
- October 30 – Fall deadline for box tops
- October 31 – Halloween parade, 2 p.m.
- November 20 – Math, Science, and Technology night
- December 4 – TEAM career day

OLD BUSINESS:

- \$900 was raised at the pizza sale on Back to School Night
- Sally Foster sales have closed but can still be ordered through the internet to benefit SRS
- Coupon book payments are due now!

NEW BUSINESS:

Day of Service, Martin Luther King Day: Ruth Bock

- January 19, 2009 is Martin Luther King Day, traditionally a day of service. A program is being coordinated at SRS that will run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon that will include several projects that children of all ages can work on and complete that day. The projects will be both local and global in nature, and each will include an educational component. Children can participate in one or more projects. Several teachers have already volunteered to help out this day, and we are looking to incorporate Swarthmore College as well. We are also exploring the possibility of accepting donated items for a worthy cause.

Green Group: Beth Murray

- Five women in town have been meeting for about a year and exploring the ways in which they can reduce their carbon footprint. They met with many people and investigated many ideas. Here is the top 10 list of ideas that require just a little bit of work but have a lot of impact:
 1. Turn down your thermostat
 2. Tighten up the house by reducing drafts
 3. Drive less and keep your tires properly inflated
 4. Stop burning coal for fuel; investigate alternative energy with PECO
 5. Be smart about lighting; turn off lights when you leave the room
 6. Use appliances wisely
 7. Recycle everything
 8. Stop using plastic bags
 9. Stop buying water in plastic bottles
 10. Pack waste-free lunches

Teacher Initiative Fund:

- The primary grades are requesting \$400 to support a bus trip to Plush Mills for a Halloween concert. Discussion followed on the short timing of the request and the inability to ask more about it.
 - **Motion:** to advance the \$400 in support of the trip, but request that the grades raise \$200 in return
- Discussion of the request to purchase a new rug in the music room. Beth Murray offered a rug in place of the purchase. This will be considered

Other New Business

- A survey has been posted on line to accept your thoughts on expanding the SRS walking zone
- Open positions for next year are listed below. Please consider volunteering now so you can learn from the current volunteer:
 - School Publicity
 - Educational Workshop Coordinator
 - “*The Rising Star*” contributing writer
 - Hospitality
 - Dimensions in Science
 - Grant researcher/writer

NEXT MEETING

- November 12th at the SRS Library. Special presentation on the use of the HSA-purchased Wii system for special education.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Graham