

**Swarthmore Rutledge School**  
**Home and School Association Meeting**  
**June 10, 2009**

**ATTENDEES:** Sharon Graham, Carlin McCoy, Kathryn Mehan, Elma Jones, Tony Liu, Ruth Bock, Sharon Mester, Gary Davis, Mary Murray

*Motion:* To approve the minutes of the April 15 meeting. Motion carries

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** *Dr. Gary Davis*

- Dr. Davis noted what a pleasure it has been to work with the leadership of Home and School this year.
- On Monday, teachers will receive an orientation to the new technology that has been purchased with Home and School money raised at the Silent Auction. Currently, the projectors are in, but not the whiteboards.
- PSSA scores will be available next week.
- SRS had many winners in the Delaware County young author contest. Thanks to Elma Jones for her work coordinating our entries.
- Student placement for next school year is almost complete. This is always a tough job that requires the balance of many factors. Ultimately, each grade group makes the determination.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> grade had their pool party today.
- There was also a car wash by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade on May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> saw The Kids Place rising first graders visit the school. Next year, we may need to add a 1<sup>st</sup> grade class to accommodate the numbers of children coming in.
- As we are ending our first year of the science explorers after school program, we are very happy with the program. All after school programs consistently get high marks from parents.
- The foreign language after school program will need a new coordinator next year; Mark Linkins is not the coordinator. It is H&S's job to find the new coordinator, even though the position is paid through the district.
- The first grade fairy tale projects were excellent!
- African Dance, our 17<sup>th</sup> straight year, was a huge success. Teachers would like to have two performances next year, but we aren't sure at this time if that request can be accommodated.
- Both the choral and instrumental concerts were terrific.
- There has been interest expressed in making Field Day different next year. Perhaps H&S can work to get more parents involved so that more activities can be done for the kids.
- Fifth grade art project is almost complete. A few projects are already on display.
- Peaceful Playground grant will require a few volunteers to come and help to paint a map of the United States on the playground. Dr. Davis estimates that this should only take a few hours.

**TREASURER:** *Sharon Mester*

- We are on track with our budget spending and have a \$14,000 surplus for the year. We will use \$4,000 of that to fund next year's budget; \$7,000 will be applied to working capital, so \$3,000 is extra at this time.

- There are some restricted funds that still have a balance in them that won't be used...for example, the after school science program. This money will put to good use in a similar fund to meet the needs of science education.
- The grounds committee is asking that we consider paving the children's garden. Perhaps this is a fifth grade project to consider? There is also the thought to do a labyrinth.
- The Hoedown netted approximately \$2,000

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

*SAC: Carlin McCoy*

- The last meeting was on May 5. We still need 2 volunteers for next year's committee, although right now we do have 3 or 4 applications in the queue to review.
- There should be a general supply list that goes home with the students for the next grade year so that people don't have to wait to buy supplies until the teacher letter comes in August.
- The focus of SAC this year was to get more outside groups involved with SRS. This was met with limited success. We learned that we need to be more specific in our requests. For example, at Swarthmore College we need to approach specific departments with targeted requests. SRS teachers did like when outside speakers came in.

*Dimensions Social Studies: Sally Fullam*

- Recommendations are being written for programs in the upcoming year.

*Dimensions in Technology: Tony Liu*

- Mark Finlayson and Tony Liu have talked about the new technology coming to the school and teachers will be asked at their training on Monday where they want their technology placed in their room.
- Free training is offered at the Intermediate Unit.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- From the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, one activity is asking for financial support for the recycling bins. Home and School approved funding half the cost pending the outcome of our fiscal year. There are funds left over to fund the remainder of the outlay. Total costs were \$742.50; to date, Home and School has funded \$370. This money would come out of the 2009/2010 budget.
- *Motion:* to approve the final balance payable by Home and School to the parents who sponsored the recycling bins. Motion carries.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Stacey Clements provided an excellent written report on all the great work she has done this year to maintain the grounds of SRS. The full report is entered into the minutes. Many of this great work goes unnoticed. She is asking for additional help next year.
- We are still looking for a volunteer to coordinate next year's assembly committee
- There was a discussion about the results from the "wish list" survey that went home to families. A common theme that emerged was around lunch/recess. \$250 has been added the 2009/2010 budget to help fund some ideas. There is a sense of lack of appreciation for

what the lunch staff does and the benefit of the lunch/recess time; it is as important as other subjects to the children. The staff have been asked and will provide input on how to promote good behavior.

- There was a discussion on how to get a wish list from teachers for what they might want donated from families. Dr. Davis suggested that every teacher needs new rugs; the ones purchased during the renovation are wearing thin.

**2009/2010 BUDGET:** *Carlin McCoy*

- There is a new line item to support an SRS cookbook next year. Jennifer Vincent will take the lead; teachers and families will add recipes. Wallingford Elementary did one last year that was a success.
- Green Holiday is also new and is headed up by Patti D'Arcy. We ran a trial around Earth Day and will roll it out with Sally Foster.
- We will push Corporate/Retail more next year to maximize.
- Motion: to approve budget. Motion carries

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- June 16 – last day of school for children
- June 18 – last day of school for teachers

**NEXT MEETING**

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Graham