

**Swarthmore Rutledge School  
Home and School Association Meeting  
October 7, 2009**

**ATTENDEES:** Kate Crawford, Sharon Graham, Carlin McCoy, Gary Davis, Karen Shore, Marj Hatzell, Kathryn Mehan, Emily Labows, Denise Disney, Kara Schmidt, Shelley Bollinger, MC Petras, Jodi Dawes, Linda Hauck, Betty Anne Flynn, Catherine Camp, Jeff Sumner, Vippy Yee

*Motion:* To approve the minutes of the September 7 meeting. Motion carries

**TREASURER:** *Beth DeBruyn*

- We've added line items to show the receipt of two grants - one from Target which is earmarked for the John Blake Quartet show, the other from Best Buy which will go for a technology purchase.

*Motion:* To approve the revised budget. Motion carries

- Sally Foster, Green fundraising, and the coupon book all look like they will hit their budget targets.

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

- Things are off to a great start this year.
- President Obama's speech was shown to all grades on September 17
- Back to School picnic was awesome! Thanks to our coordinators and all who participated to make it such a great night.
- Dr. Davis has asked for H&S support of a program from the Walnut Street Theatre titled "The Force Fable" which has many themes we support at SRS. H&S will support this within Assembly budget.
- After school programs have begun and are quite full. Other extracurricular activities sponsored by the school will be starting shortly.
- Wellness committee at the District has been meeting regularly.
- H1N1 procedures did go home; please be mindful of when your child is sick and to not send him or her to school and risk exposure to other children and teachers.
- Elma Jones will be the teacher representative on H&S; MC Petras is sitting in while Elma is on leave.
- October 30<sup>th</sup> is our Halloween parade.
- Smart Board training for teachers has begun and most have worked out a schedule to share.

**SPECIAL GUESTS:**

*Betty Ann Flynn – President, Swarthmore Rotary*

- Ms. Flynn spoke about the exchange student program that the local Rotary has been involved in for years. We have a student from Finland right now who has been here since August and is enrolled at Strath Haven High School. The Rotary is always looking for host families; the commitment would be for 3-4 months. If interested, contact Anne Seidman at [seidmanak@gmail.com](mailto:seidmanak@gmail.com) or 610-543-6957

*Shelley Bollinger – Volunteer Coordinator, ABC House*

- Ms. Bollinger spoke about the A Better Chance (ABC) organization which sponsors a boy's and girl's house here in Swarthmore with a total of 14 children enrolled at Strath Haven High School. (<http://www.abetterchance.org/>) ABC is looking for volunteers in any capacity right now; families will often take the kids on a Sunday or come into the ABC House to sponsor an activity on a Sunday in order to give the Resident Director a break. For more information contact Shelley Bollinger at [smbolinger@msn.com](mailto:smbolinger@msn.com) or 610-541-0244.

*Catherine Camp – Home and School marketing campaign*

- Ms. Camp spoke to the group to solicit their ideas on how to get great publicity for Home and School outside of the normal channels such as the Swarthmorean. This year we want to promote our activities around the technology improvements at the school, sustainability, and community service. We want to also highlight the impact of Home and School contributions on teachers and their work. Some great ideas were shared that Catherine will follow up on. To contribute your ideas, contact Catherine Camp at [clcamp@verizon.net](mailto:clcamp@verizon.net) or 610-544-2713

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

*School Advisory Committee – Marj Hatzell*

- Looking into how to handle school pictures – stay local or go with a national company.
- Looking at making improvements to field day this year.

*Dimensions in STEM – Linda Armour*

- Reminder that TE@M night is November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Jeff Sumner is the new technology representative and he'll be meeting with Tony Liu shortly to come up to speed on where things stand.

*Dimensions in Sustainability – Denise Disney*

- We've received our rain barrel from a recent grant and it was in the lobby for a few weeks to expose kids to it. A brochure also went home. We are investigating if Home Depot can support placing gutters on the shed by the baseball field so that we can use the rain barrel there; if not, it will go to the recycling center.
- Soil samples were taken for the garden and sent to Penn State for evaluation. The soil does need some support to be in top shape.
- We are exploring working with a recommended landscape artist to better manage the runoff from the parking lot into the playground where it gets all mushy.

*Dimensions Social Studies: Katie Crawford for Sally Fullam*

- Planning for an election on November 4 to vote for your favorite pet.
- Mock trial being planned that may focus on an environmental crime.

*Dimensions in Art – Katie Crawford for Laura Maola*

- This year's project will be announced soon

*School Directory – Katie Crawford for Ali Holsinger and Lauren McKinney*

- Are now available. Get your order in for \$9 each. New look, new coupons!

*Fall Fair – Carlin McCoy for Margaret Hoch*

- The fair is on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We need lots of volunteers and forms have gone home.
- Remember to bring your clothes and newspapers for the scarecrow.

*5<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep – Beth DeBruyn*

- The fifth grade needs to raise approximately \$5000 to support their projects which includes the art project and a yearbook; fundraising begins in 4<sup>th</sup> grade with the pumpkin sale. We are exploring new ways to raise funds.

*Dining Services and Recess – Karen Shore*

- Discussion of KidOrganics, a new company that will deliver mostly organic meals to children. Visit [www.kidofoods.com](http://www.kidofoods.com)
- We have met with the food director in the cafeteria. Some near term strategies being investigated are:
  1. Providing organic milk
  2. Providing a fresh fruit of the week – preferably local
  3. Reviewing what is currently provided and determining if anything can be converted to organic.
- There was a suggestion to also focus on how to deal with high allergy foods.
- We are lacking staff resources during lunch time and as a result, things are not very efficient. After 20 minutes, the kids can go outdoors for recess; sometimes, kids are still in line getting food after 20 minutes. More volunteers could really help
- We can also use parent volunteers on the playground in the morning, especially to help keep kids away from wet equipment.
- A total of 7 pages of suggestions that are currently being reviewed by cafeteria staff.
- Looking to beef up indoor recess options, too.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Teacher Initiative Fund:*

- One request for \$116 to support a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade trip to Plush Mills community for a Halloween party.

Motion: to provide for \$116 for bussing 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to Plush Mills. Motion carries.

- Parents are reminded if their children are sick that day to please leave them home.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- October 23 – Fall Festival 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- October 30 – Halloween Parade 2 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the library

Meeting Adjourned 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Graham