

**Swarthmore Rutledge School  
Home and School Association Meeting  
November 11, 2009**

**ATTENDEES:** Beth DeBruyn, Linda Martin, Sharon Graham, MC Petras, Carlin McCoy, Gary Davis, Katie Crawford, Marj Hatzell, Laura Memenger, Kathryn Mehan, Heidi Foggo, Jodi Dawes, Linda Armour, Denise Disney, Sally Fullam, Jeff Sumner

**MINUTES:**

- One noted change for October's minutes. It should be noted that we are not currently working with a landscape architect but that we recommend working with a landscape architect for the grounds.
- *Motion:* to approve the minutes with stated changes. Motion carries.

**DISCUSSION OF SURPLUS:**

- Beth DeBruyn outlined how Home and School has ended up with an approximately \$6,700 surplus, after restricted funds are accounted for. There was a discussion on the nature of certain restricted funds and their purpose. Grants secured by Brooke Penders' efforts are in restricted funds.
- H&S would like to get all parties in SRS involved in deciding how to best allocate the surplus. The only history we have dates back to an ad-hoc committee recommendation from 1998 which suggested having proposals submitted to H&S, who would then submit them to the principal to determine what was appropriately funded from H&S versus other sources. Then, the proposals would come back to H&S for a vote.
- The co-presidents will take this recommendation and formalize the process so that we can begin to accept proposals.

**GRANTS:**

- *Motion:* to accept into the budget the \$2,000 grant received from Target to support the John Blake quartet. Motion carries.
- *Motion:* to accept into the budget the \$1,000 grant received from Best Buy to support technology at SRS. Motion carries.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> grade is discussing various books and Time for Kids
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is preparing for its annual Thanksgiving Day pageant and will visit the Franklin Institute on December 8
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is studying measurement and writing about their experiences with animals. They recently visited Crystal Cave and are beginning to learn the recorder.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be visiting Landis Valley tomorrow on a field trip as a part of their study of Pennsylvania history. In December, they will be visited by a person from the Lenape Indian tribe who will speak to them and share Indian artifacts. They have talked about how people are stretched thin and are considering a canned food drive.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade has begun their Native American unit; they will also participate in the assembly with the Lenape Indian. They have been discussing drug and alcohol abuse and how to say "no."

- Mark Linkins will be speaking at a school district sponsored function on December 8<sup>th</sup> on how to not talk to your kids. More information will be posted at the [www.wssd.org](http://www.wssd.org) website.
- Walnut Street Theatre will be back in March for a performance on a “forest fable” about how a city destroys the landscape. The performance involves the audience in how to help rebuild the environment.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### SAC – Marj Hatzel

- SAC is working on aligning the mission of H&S and SRS and working to ensure that our activities support the mission.
- For more information, the SRS mission is in the school directory and H&S mission is on our website, [www.srskids.org](http://www.srskids.org)

### Dimensions in Art – Carlin McCoy for Laura Maola

- Both the primary and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade art projects are moving along but not at the point yet to be formally announced; that announcement should come shortly.

### Dimensions in Social Studies – Sally Fullam

- The SRS election this year was for your favorite pet. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade was very busy with projects and so the 4<sup>th</sup> grade stepped up to assist. The winning pet was the dog.
- Next, up Dimensions in Social Studies supports the guest appearance of the Lenape Indian tribe person for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Dimensions in Social Studies has been meeting with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to get their input on how to best incorporate the 5<sup>th</sup> graders into the mock trial. They could be witnesses or serve to cross examine. This year will be an environmental crime, the disposal of a computer into Little Crum Creek.
- A grant has been received to support the primary grades going to the Japanese Garden in Fairmount Park during their study of Asia.

### Dimensions in Sustainability – Denise Disney

- The Master Gardener program at Smedley Park has agreed to take on SRS as a project this year. Dimensions is discussing how to incorporate the garden into classroom studies with the teachers, children, and school staff. This can also be incorporated into the district Wellness initiative. If you want to help, see Denise Disney

### STEM – Linda Armour and Jeff Sumner

- TE@M night is November 19<sup>th</sup>; we still need people to man booths at the event. The District Director of Technology will be donating some keyboards.
- We are testing a H&S page on Facebook

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Project – Linda Martin

- We have had some setbacks, but things are still moving forward.

Food/Dining/Recess – Kate Crawford for Karen Shore

- Kids Organic is doing well and pretty soon she will be online for orders; we will provide a link at [www.srskids.org](http://www.srskids.org)
- There have been meetings with the cafeteria director on incorporating fresh and local foods into the menu; we currently have local apples available and are pursuing organic milk
- We are working to make the cafeteria more homey and may do painted oilcloth tablecloths.
- We need volunteers in the cafeteria for walk around support in opening containers, juice boxes, and to coordinate indoor recess and outdoor recess. More volunteers outside would allow the kids to use more of the fields.
- There was a discussion about whether kids can do recess first and eat second. Dr. Davis says this usually happens when there isn't enough room to accommodate all the children who need to eat at any given time.

**TREASURER REPORT** – Kate Crawford for various committee heads

- Green Committee – made \$300 more than budgeted
- Sally Foster – made \$500 less than budgeted
- Coupon books – made \$1100 more than budgeted
- Directory – made \$600 less than budgeted but we do continue to sell leftovers
- Note cards – made \$350 more than budgeted.
- Fall Festival – netted \$620 on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade pumpkin sale. It was suggested that there be 2 chairs for next year's event: one to prep the pumpkins and one to sell.
- Book Swap – went well and leftovers will be donated.
- Spirit Wear - \$640 profit

**TEACHER INITIATIVE FUND REQUESTS:**

- There was a request for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to support materials for the Thanksgiving pageant; however, a parent has stepped forward and offered to cover it. This donation is reflected in the appropriate line items for the budget.  
*Motion:* to accept these additional funds for the TIF into the budget. Motion carries.
- The fifth grade teachers have put in a request for \$1000 to defray the cost of the annual trip to the Stone Harbor wetlands in the spring. With H&S support, the cost per child will be reduced approximately \$10. Discussion ensued on other ways to support this request: through grants, support via the overall 5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraising. It was suggested that the discussion be tabled until early 2010; another suggestion was to approve the money and then review future requests to determine if they can be funded elsewhere in the budget. There was a question on the applicability of using TIF to support classroom field trips.  
*Motion:* to approve \$1000 to support this trip. Motion carries 7-6
- A request was submitted by the 1<sup>st</sup> grade to purchase a CD player for \$79.99 plus tax.  
*Motion:* to approve this request. Motion carries.

The teacher wish list will again be sent via email blast.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be the February 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned, 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Graham