

Minutes
General APT Meeting
Wednesday December 9, 2009

Present: Mikki Fretz, Julie Gildersleeve, Dani Tiffany, Fabiana Stauffer, Allison Barkley, Susan Brown, Wendy Owens, Lisa Bloom, Yolanda Alemany, Laura St. John, Susan Steinhilber, Rebecca Nelson, Sarah Stammegna

1. The Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.
2. Introductions were made.
3. Mikki moved to approve the meeting minutes from Nov. 10th, 2009. Fabi seconded the motion- motion carried.
4. **Principal's Report:** Sarah Stammegna –
 - 4.1 Thank You - Fundraiser, Carnival, Holiday Lunch
 - 4.2 Focus Groups, January 26th 6-8 at Cochise
 - 4.3 Tax Credit, Deadline is December 31st, flyers, phone notification, working with Fabi next week.
 - 4.4 Meeting with Tom Clark, Director of Technology
 - 4.5 Childsplay, January 15th for all grade levels at Cochise instead of us traveling this year.
5. **Teachers Report:**
 - 5.1 Thank you from Special Ed teachers for donations
6. **President's Report:** Julie Gildersleeve
 - 6.1 Paper cutter for library – We were asked to supply a paper cutter for the library. We voted & passed it. It has been ordered for \$133.81 from “General APT FUND”
 - 6.2 Re-allocation of funds for this year and Special Ed Teachers – We discussed the results and ideas for the new allocation of funding for the Special Ed Teachers, Specials & Peripheral Teachers, and regular teachers. We voted to pass the 2-tiered level of gifting (\$500 for regular & dedicated classroom teachers & teachers who see all the students on campus AND \$250 for the remaining teachers) for the rest of this year. The changes will be voted on at the budget meeting for 2010-2011.
 - 6.3 Arithmatwist - The fifth grade teachers and Travis Lofstedt came to us to supply the Arithmatwist workbooks for their classrooms. We passed the motion & they were ordered using the APT credit card.
 - 6.4 Spelling Bee - I got to be a judge at this year's Spelling Bee this past Wednesday morning, which was stressful & wonderful at the same time. The 4th & 5th graders who participated were: Danielle R., Isabella J., Tyler C., Bert O., Rachel H., Cate M., Davis H., Daniel B., Macey K., Guy O., Cullen T., Nick S.D., Blake P., Tatum P. Our winner was Daniel B. with Guy O. as the runner up. It was a fantastic event with all the students demonstrating excellent spelling skills. LOVED IT!!
 - 6.5 Writing Seminar with Diane Murphy is Wed. 1/6/2010 @3:30-4:30
 - 6.6 Room Parent for SPECED - just a reminder to those of you who signed on to be a surrogate room parent for the special ed. classrooms to remember them at the holiday. A card or a basket of homemade treats will go a long way!! Johnson- Kari Carey, Schandler- Dani Tiffany, Schultz- LeAnne Thomas, Van de Kerk- Fabiana Stauffer
 - 6.7 Veteran's Day proposed changes for next year - After this years wonderful and beautifully done Veterans Day Celebration, a few ideas arose for next years celebration that we need to implement. Firstly, the Ceremony will not start at all until the attention of the parents & visitors are successfully attained. The kids come in and go straight to criss cross applesauce, while a slew of folks still chit chat & are on their phones. We will announce the assembly is beginning & THEN begin. The colors should be the first thing that is done in this type of ceremony and it also commands the attention of all in the room. The Bells will need to be moved to after the Colors are presented. It is only fair to the children who work so hard to get ready for this event to be heard & have people's undivided attention. The Program might be a few minutes longer, but it is a showcase of our pride for our country & I believe it will be fine. Through some research, I found out this is just an event that had the agenda or timeline set 8 or so years ago & we just kept the outline but added stuff to it through the subsequent years. It just needs a timeline tweak. I would suggest that the Chair Persons for next year get with Ms. Luby & the Boy Scout leader to help set the proper order. Again, it was & continues to be a crowd pleaser and a favorite event. It is always beautiful done with lovely attention to detail. I thank all of you who were involved in the event and the planning.
 - 6.8 New t-shirt design - Our Art Teacher Lauren Hoepf had drawn the coolest Bobcat and I saw it & thought- TA DA !! That is it. Not too realistic, not mangy, not scary, JUST RIGHT!! I asked her if she would be cool with us using the likeness & she said, YUP! So here is my final shirt design. Is it ok? Can I go forward with it? Should I order 100 or make it a request form that will go home? They will be around 7 to make & we can charge whatever y'all decide on.....
7. **Treasurer Report:** Dani Tiffany
 - 7.1 Budget update for 2008-09. Lisa moved to approve budget. Allison seconded the motion. Motion carried
 - 7.2 Fall Book Fair \$3,033
 - 7.3 Fall Fund Raiser \$17,669
 - 7.4 Carnival \$5587
 - 7.5 Misc. income \$15.00

7.6 See attached budget

8. **Corresponding Secretary** – Yolanda Alemany

8.1 Cochise cares update

8.2 Holiday Gift update

9. **Hospitality Report:** - Susan Brown

9.1 Teacher's holiday luncheon a success. Thank you Dana Trentor and Michelle Lundgren – Great Job!

10. **Student Activities Report:** Fabiana Stauffer

10.1 Arts in Ed Meeting update (AEC), from 11/6:

a. Another newsletter will come out for Dec/Jan.

b. Janet Blum brought up Native American dance as optional field trip for 4th graders. It ties in with curriculum. it would need to be paid by schools (either PTOs or tax credit), so it will be up to individual administrators to decide.

c. Heather: presenting this month to principals the performances available that can come to ES. It was a first come/first serve basis, meaning that the quicker principals responded to Heather & what show they wanted, the more likelihood they were able to book that performance for their school.

d. JB: HS will bring performances to their feeder MS.

10.2 ACA stART event: present were Mandy Buscas, Director of Learning, Alex Nelson - ACA & Lynn Tuttle, State Dept of Ed and Artists from ACA roster.

Mandy Buscas: ACA had a 54% cut into their budget this year; about 42% of that cut is from the state. She stated that the ACA cut 0% into their Artists in Residence programs. This year there was a higher demand for it. Grants applications available in January.

New Person for Artist in Residence Coordinator: Alex (Nelson?). Kim no longer there and Mandy will be away for a bit.

Lynn Tuttle: Discussed dire situation AZ is in with education: Fed. Stimulus money non-existent for next year; that this year was a cakewalk next to what is coming our way. Parent coalitions are extremely important for our children and for Scottsdale specifically, more parents need to engage with SPC...(voice for our kids...go to legislation on their behalf).

10.3 Arts in Ed Performances: I was at an AEC board meeting on 11/7. One of the discussions was about performances and how receptive principals were about them. 6 different types for performances were offered to the principals for their schools. Looks like Child's Play will be coming to our school and is funded by the AEC. Dates and times, TBA.

10.4 Yearbook: Due date for montage page is Friday, 1/22/2010. Dawn Hudson will be sending information about that to the room parents before break (through Wendy). We ended up with about 5 definite students that cannot appear in the yearbook.

10.5 Art Masterpiece: Ms. Miller was here on 11/19 & 11/24 to present Picture Arizona to our 4th grade class. It was an awesome presentation. After her slide show, the kids did a collage about AZ and it's 5 c's. We hope to show those off in their classroom at our Creative Arts Festival. I gave her some flowers, as a thank you for her time at Cochise. Cart: there was a hiccup with our order of the cart. Not sure what happened but district did not give a PO number for our order and therefore, the order wasn't processed. We just found this out. It had been a while since Rebecca had placed the order and we were wondering what was going on. So now since the money has been gifted for us to purchase the cart, we are looking into buying it ourselves without needing to order it.

11. **Fundraising Report:** *Allison Barley*

11.1 Fall Fundraiser and Cookie Dough Sales Final Report - Dana Gapusan and I are thrilled to report that we more than exceeded our goal for both the fundraisers this fall! We had a goal of raising \$9000 and we totaled \$17,669! Our net profits for the fall fundraiser were \$15,200 and the cookie dough sales totaled \$2,468. 240 students sold the 1st fundraiser - 102 students sold cookie dough (42% of these students only sold cookie dough)

11.2 Holiday Angel - The angels were all selected before Thanksgiving! The gifts were due today. We are delivering them on Tuesday, Dec. 15. I will be bagging all the gifts by classroom Monday at 7:45am in room 410 if anyone wants to help.

11.3 Voted & approved spending up to \$100 to assist Cherokee in providing lunch for the Bethune teachers on Dec. 15

11.4 Subway fundraiser made \$28 but Subway gave us \$100.

12. **Volunteers Report:** Mikki Fretz

12.1 Sock Hop 2/5 co-chairs are Linda Sweeney and Molly Beresford

12.2 Jump for Heart and Field Day coordinator is Kimberly Lustg

13. **Community Information Report:** Lisa Bloom

13.1 Scottsdale Parent Council Report – Julie Gildersleeve/Katie Collopy – *SPC Meeting 11/18/2009*

a. Holiday Angel Program - SUSD doing 6th annual Holiday Drive. Over 200 SUSD kids need help.

Contact Amanda Kuczynski (480)484-6227 or akuczynski@susd.org to receive your adopted child's info. which is confidential via an assigned number. Flyer enclosed - highlights are: \$35. limit per child, deliver to front office of school prior to December 14th. Wrap and label the present with the school and student's id. Volunteers preferring to give cash donation please contact Amanda directly.

b. Raising Special Kids - with Rita Kennison (602)242-4366 ritak@raisingspecialkids.org

This was a presentation highlighting all of the special needs programs that are available in SUSD. Contact Rita directly if any parent has any questions or problems. Information packet is enclosed - highlights: Special Ed programs around the district vary from campus to campus. Collaboration is required. Parents are encouraged to bring in ideas, thoughts and opinions. They are entitled to certain rights. Child needs consistency with teacher style throughout education to integrate into next phase of life. i.e., college/tech school/intentional service. Many services available. Please pass this info. on to any friends, family etc. with young children who may have disabilities to get started at this critical time. There are statewide offices in Flagstaff, Phoenix and Tucson. PLEASE REFER FAMILIES TO RITA AND FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS Many workshops are available. parent organization classes, tolerance training, transitioning, www.pacer.org, kidsagainstbullying.org, teensagainstbullying.org. Pam Murphy of SEPAC (special ed. parent advisory council), Lois Healy -head of SPS special ed. Or to get started, call child's school/teacher to ask for an evaluation. It will be conducted within 60 days. May decide to set up IEP - individual education plan. There are IEP workshops to teach you how to advocate for your child. This is all at no cost to the family. Major point was made to let entire school know to reach out to special needs kids. For example, include them in the yearbook and other events on campus throughout the year. There are IEP workshops once a year to provide skill once again on how to advocate for your special needs child. All this info will soon be put on the SEPAC website and the School Fusion website. Once again, Lois Healy is the go to person. (480) 484-5032. approx. \$4 thousand average per child is all that is allocated. More time for staff training is needed. RTI - response to intervention program is available to get help for middle achieving kids who tend to fall through the cracks. 2EP - twice exceptional program - contact Laurel Hogate www.twoeparents.com. or twoeparents@yahoo.com. this is a program for children who are gifted and also have a learning challenge. These children feel school subjects are either too difficult or too easy. They tend to be under identified because they can cover up disability due to their giftedness. Red flag for identifying these kids: they can be highly disruptive or have a very difficult time keeping them on track during homework. It cannot be understated how much these kids need to be identified for they tend to go one of two paths. Drug/suicide or highly successful. Small class sizes are recommended. 4th or 5th grade is when this condition usually shows up for children are now reading to learn instead of learning to read. The more we can identify these kids, the more programs we will get in the district. Right now the only specific program available is at Mountainside. Next Meeting: December 16th at 9:30 am.

13.2 Veterans Day recap – Laura St. John

13.3 Holiday Angel Program update – 12/15 delivery

14. **New Business:**

14.1 Money for Special Ed Classroom “room parents” – Fabiana – Vote - Monies for Special Ed Classroom. Discussion took place and no vote was given. Topic was tabled for further discussion. Existing room parent volunteers will meet to gather information about financial needs and volunteer role, and bring back to APT for further discussion

14.2 School Psychologist would like \$199 for conference in Chicago. Dani Tiffany moves to gift \$199 to Mrs. Blair for conference in Chicago – seconded by Fabi. After discussion Yolanda amends motion to pay \$100 for conference – seconded by Lisa Bloom. Motion carried for \$100.

14.3 Discussion about Holiday Angel program for teachers at Bethune was brought up. This year the focus was on the children and the teachers did not receive any gift cards. Instead a holiday luncheon was planned for them, given by three elementary schools (Cochise, Sequoya, Cherokee) holiday angel representatives. It was discussed amongst the representatives to split the cost. Allison Barkley made a motion to donate up to \$100 for the Bethune Teacher's Holiday Luncheon. Susan Rosener Seconded the motion – motion carried

14.5 Next General APT Meeting January 6, 2010 at 6 pm in the APT room

15. **Meeting Adjourned:** 11:15 am