

Minutes from the PTA General Meeting on 12/13/11

Call to order

PTA co-president Greg Mize called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. in the school library. The following persons attended:

Dr. Mary Stephanus, principal

Lucille Hester

Gloria Brown

Greg Mize

Hudson Primus

Stephen Frum

Doug Kendall

Brian Cohen

Darlene Mimms

Karen Bates

Peter Eisler

Sherry Woods

Michelle Snow

Paula Godfrey

Dee Lofton

Sarah Spooner

Linda Duquette-Peterson

Corniece Keene-Brown

Kanika Brookins

Beverly Carpenter-Nickens

Maia Willis

Report from the Principal

Dr. Mary announced the Chancellor's intention to establish a pilot project at Hardy and Kramer Middle Schools called the Schoolwide Enrichment Model ["SEM"] for the 2012-2013 school year. She distributed a one-page description of the program designed by the U. of Connecticut. It is already in use in various school systems including nearby Howard County, MD. She said the decision is likely to be made official in the near future.

She also shared news about: the recent science fair judgments; the first Hardy open house; commencement of the school track and basketball seasons; her visits to feeder schools Hyde, Key, Mann, and Stoddert; the

online school application process being undertaken by 8th graders; the imminent retirement of the school manager; and the steps being taken to replace her. Dr. Mary described known details of the school break-in and computer thefts discovered on December 5. She expressed her concerns about the problems caused by large amounts junk food being brought into the school by students. Each topic generated ample discussion among the attendees.

Report by the Communications Committee

Committee chairman Brian Cohen reported that the parent email list has increased to over 250 names and that the \$4000 grant from the Palisades Citizens Association to create a robust school website will be formally awarded later in the day. Brian explained the careful process establish the optimum website design and management so that it might become operational by January 2012.

Report by the Hospitality Committee

Shari Gilbert's emailed report was read to attendees:

- Marisa Mize coordinated and delivered snacks to the faculty meeting on November 28 and Michelle Snow delivered snacks to the Open House on November 29.
- We have snacks organized for those two events through the end of January and need someone for February 27 and 28.
- We've been asked to decorate for the Winter Concert, and we really need help on that. The decorating will take place on Wednesday at 5 pm (the concert is Thursday at 5 pm). If you can help decorate and/or donate a poinsettia, that'd be great.
- We're doing well with recruiting people for events that are planned further out (we have people signed up for Hospitality Committee events later in the spring), but right now, it seems like our greatest need is for folks to help with semi-last minute events (i.e., decorating for the Winter Concert). As we rebuild the PTA and this committee in general, we hope to prioritize events that this committee should serve and plan ahead for those.

Ample discussion followed her report. Ms. Carpenter volunteered to try to find holiday decorations from prior years. Others volunteered to help with concert decoration of the auditorium.

Report by the Development/Fundraising Committee

After distributing a single page, PTA treasurer Stephen Frum reported that there is (rounded off) \$5000 in the PTA bank account with no outstanding obligations.

Stephen and Brian Cohen emphasized we need more folks to step up and work on fundraising. To that end, Brian announced that 5 or 6

parents are planning to meeting at the Starbucks in Wisconsin Avenue Safeway on Monday, 12/19 to plan fundraisers. Greg Mize shared news of how the manager of Key Elementary School administers their e-script program with retailers like Safeway and Target. Michelle Snow volunteered to manage Hardy's e-script program.

Brian Cohen announced that \$5 bumper stickers would be ready for sale at the holiday musical concert. A PTA table will be set up for those sales and distribution of PTA membership and 180 Fund forms. He also urged the PTA to make application to the Glover Park Citizens Association for up to a \$3500 grant for a Hardy program. After discussion among attendees, it was agreed to seek the grant in January for \$3500 to equip Hardy's new soccer team.

Those attending the meeting also reached consensus that Dr. Mary and the Development/Fundraising Committee should, at the next PTA meeting, separately recommend 3 top objectives for fundraising.

Report by Hudson Primus on Sports Fields Access

PTA vice president Hudson Primus recounted his efforts and concerns with respect to Hardy students having fair access to sports fields on public properties near Hardy, that is, Duke Ellington, Jelleff, Guy Mason, and Stoddert. He explained the recent history and news stories about how private schools have acquired predominant access to these fields to the detriment of Hardy sports teams. Lengthy discussions followed. It was agreed that Dr. Mary would initially contact appropriate DCPS officials to leverage fair access to these fields, particularly Duke Ellington, by Hardy. Consensus was reached that resort to news media was not warranted at this time. This topic will be re-visited at the next general PTA meeting.

Scheduling Future PTA General Meetings

Attendees agreed that Tuesdays at 8 a.m. (band practice mornings) are the best times for future general PTA meetings. Thus the next meeting was set for January 17, 2012.

Adjournment: After agreeing to host a teacher-appreciation holiday breakfast on Tuesday, December 20, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.