

## **Cromwell Valley Elementary**

PTA Meeting Minutes  
November 27, 2007

### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the PTA at Cromwell Valley Elementary was called to order at 6:34 p.m. on November 27, 2007 in the CVE Media Center by Alan VanLuven, PTA President.

### **Present:**

Alan VanLuven, Margaret Cellucci, Darlene Morrison, Jennifer Descoteau, Brian Robinson, Angela Middleton, Michael Middleton, Christian Gromek, B. Kevin Gibbons O'Neil, Clarence Jones, Chris Descoteau, Sgt. Ken Busic, Tracey Myers-Preston, Tim Kjer, Ellen Ubao, and Kate Walkinshaw.

#### **A. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

#### **B. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

#### **C. President's Report**

Alan noted that the Recording Secretary position remains vacant (the Corresponding Secretary, Margaret Cellucci is assuming the duties until the position is filled) and we still need a Chair for the Silent Auction. He said there will not be a December PTA meeting and that the deadline for the December PTA Newsletter is midnight tonight for submissions of articles and information to be included.

**Special Presentation** – Officer Ken Busic from the Baltimore County Office of Safe Schools through Baltimore County Police reporting on his observations and suggestions for CVE's dismissal procedures. Officer Busic said that this is a police observation – that the school is responsible for all students entering and exiting the school. He said the number of parents waiting for their child/ren in the lobby after school poses a security issue. The door should be locked and it cannot be locked during dismissal because of the number of parents in the lobby. He said intruders can easily enter the school without anyone knowing and he said such a process also exposed potential problems in custody cases. He noticed that with all these parents in the lobby, no one gets signed in and no one really can determine who is going home with whom – which is a security issue. He said ultimately the principal is responsible and procedures should be looked at and revised to improve the security. He suggested having parents wait outside for their child and that students should not be taken out of the bus line unless there is proper notification

to the school. His greatest concern is the open access to the building and who is actually taking a student.

A few parents commented that at dismissal students should be able to just join their parents – regardless of bus, walker or car. However, the officer said if your child is to be on the bus and he/she is not and there's an accident – or any issue – the school will report to police the list of kids on that bus – and if your child is not on that bus b/c a parent opted to pull the child out of the bus line the school will be in violation of safety procedures. The officer said he is concerned only about the safety of ALL students and not the inconvenience of a few parents. He said bottom line – with too many parents in the lobby it presents a huge safety concern – again, intruders can easily walk in and hide.

Mr. Jones mentioned on behalf of teachers that teachers are very concerned about the number of parents in the lobby at dismissal because they do not know all the parents and what student belongs to them.

Darlene said that of the area feeder schools, CVE is the only school that was found to have a system that allows parents to just grab their kids in the lobby. Darlene said she will present the school improvement team's recommendations to the PTA executive board for approval of the new dismissal procedures for CVE.

This was the forum for parents to share their concerns regarding the proposed changes in dismissal procedures but if anyone wants to voice their concern they should contact Darlene.

#### **D. Treasurer's Report**

Chris presented the treasurer's report. (See attached)

#### **E. Officer's / Committee Reports**

Jennifer reported programs have been running smoothly – that the Chess program has not started yet, but that Picture Parent, Reflections, and others are underway or winding down with success. She said the details are still being worked out for a Carraba's Night at CVE for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, that because of space issues, CVE won't be able to do a Snow Ball in January or February so the thought is to do a Spring Fling as part of a Family Fun event at CVE. The Gigabyte giveaway may occur during school hours because there won't be an event at the time of the Gigabyte. The planning for the Multi-Cultural Fair is well underway and while Vashaili and Jennifer will serve as co-Chair for the event, Brian and Jen D. are willing to tackle the silent auction – but if anyone wants to assist with the auction, please step up and let yourself known to them as they would appreciate assistance.

Angela Middleton said the assemblies are planned and the Catonsville High School Steel Band will perform on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 and 2:30.

## **F. Principal's Report**

Darlene reported that American Education Week was the week of November 12<sup>th</sup> and the school had approximately 491 visitors – 113 were prospective parents attending the Open House. The following students served as speakers and/or guides: Asya Brandt, Zena Ebrahim, Valerie Kahla, Elizabeth McKinley, Christy Nymick, Chika Okusogu, Adrian Reantaso, Caroline Shea, and Daniel Williams. A special thank you to Stacey Parson and the PTA Hospitality Committee for organizing and setting up refreshments each day.

Visitors to Cromwell – on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Joe Hairston, Dr. Nancy Grasmick, and Teresa Lee of Comcast visited CVE to announce the new Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Most Award. Thank you to parents who attended. On Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> the Education Channel videotaped CVE's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade visitation. Air date to be determined. On Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, County Executive Jim Smith, Dr. Hairston, and other community and business members visited to kick off the DSS Toy Drive. Music was provided by Mrs. Delaney's second grade class and the members of the Cromwell Council. Thank you to parents who attended. WMAR Channel 2 ran a story.

Volunteer Applications – thank you to those parents who have filled out their volunteer applications. Remember that you cannot chaperone a field trip or work in a classroom unless you have completed the application.

Area Assistant Superintendent Visits – Mr. Lyle Patzkowsky, Central Area Assistant Superintendent and his assistant Heather Langeman will visit the school on November 29<sup>th</sup> to observe several classrooms from K- grade 5.

### **Up Coming Dates:**

Giving Tree – through December – in need of infant toys, teen toys, ethnic dolls

December 5 – Catonsville High Steel Band Assembly at 1:30 and 2:30

December 6 – BSO Concert Trip – Grades K – 2

December 7 – Spirit Day – Twins Day

December 21 – January 1 – schools closed for winter break

January 2 – school reopens

January 9 – Oliver at 1:45 and 7:00 p.m.

January 21 – Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday observed – schools and offices closed

January 25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period ends

January 28 – Assessment Day – school closed for students

Note: the parent perception survey will go out in January – several of the topics discussed at the school improvement team meetings come from comments parents included on the survey – please be on the lookout for it!

### **G. New Business**

Kate Walkenshaw – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parent and graphic artist – requested \$35 dollar fee for the Urban Forest Project. The project involves having a TREE LOVE banner displayed throughout Baltimore City in various parks April – June, 2008. It's a national project. The request was unanimously approved for up to \$50.

Tim Kjer – CVE music teacher, request for \$2000 to support the production of Oliver. The funding will support lighting, audio, and costumes. The money was already budgeted so no need for a vote. However, discussion ensued whether admission could be charged but Tim explained that an admission charge would affect the royalty fees. A question was posed: “can we sell snacks/drinks” for some additional funding. The PTA will consider. The production of Oliver is slated for January 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 and 7:00 p.m. Tim also asked that parents not be alarmed by the rehearsal schedule. The students will only be rehearsing one time during the week and a few additional as the date draws near – he sent the schedule home to hopefully gain volunteers for the rehearsals and production.

Janice Flynn – discussed the Spanish After School program proposal that she would like to coordinate. It would run about 10 weeks, one day per week for about an hour, after school for about 15-20 students. She is still in need of a Spanish teacher and it was suggested she check with Towson University or even Ms. Winfield. While details have not been finalized, it appears the class would cost about \$60 per student for the 10 week program which would go towards the cost of the teacher and supplies. The program does not require funding from the school or PTA as the program will pay for itself. They just want the venue!

As always, the newsletter deadline is (tonight) at midnight. If you have anything to submit, please get to Tammy Phillips or Alan.

### **Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by Alan VanLuven. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on January 29<sup>th</sup> in CVE Media Center.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Cellucci

Approved by: Alan VanLuven