

Cromwell Valley Elementary

PTA Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2008

Opening:

The regular meeting of the PTA at Cromwell Valley Elementary was called to order at 6:33 p.m. on February 26, 2008 in the CVE Media Center by Jennifer Descoteau, Vice President, Programming.

Present:

Jennifer Descoteau, Margaret Cellucci, Brian Robinson, Chris Gromek, B. Kevin Gibbons O'Neil, Clarence Jones, Christian Descoteau, Ellen Ubao, Jenn Cullinane, Reid Guanti, Jen Guanti, Ann Watson, Stacey Parson, Ashley Brown, Tracey Marcantoni, Emily Meoli, Joan McKinley, Mike Beegan, Katie Ford, and Heidi Curriero.

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Ann Watson, requested attention of the PTA.

On August 27, 2007 Ann Watson resigned her position on the Executive Board as Vice President of Finance. Ann asked whether there was a formal election for Brian Robinson, who stepped into the position. The Executive Board of the PTA has the authority to approve candidates. With the support of the nominating committee, the PTA Executive Board approved the election of Brian into the role of VP of Finance. Ann also questioned whether the PTA Council received the minutes reflecting the change in names. Ann is concerned about liability if something happens at an event and therefore wants to ensure her name is not on the signature card at the bank and if off the PTA roster. She said if names are not properly submitted the Officers are not bonded. She request this action be reviewed and appropriate changes be made within 7 – 10 days of this meeting. Ann also mentioned that the By Laws are “probably” due for updating. The PTA Executive Board will look into the date for updating; change the signature cards accordingly; and ensure the PTA Council has the most up-to-date list of PTA Officers.

As per the signature card issue, Chris responded that the Bank provided erroneous information to Ann as he also visited the Bank the same morning as Ann and determined that the signature card needed to be updated. Chris and Brian will make it a priority to update the card this weekend.

The PTA Executive Board will look at the By Laws to determine if they are to be updated this year. Emily Meoli said that in the past there were quite a few changes so the process was rather time consuming, but if there are no real changes to the By Laws, it's a matter of making the appropriate number of copies and submitting accordingly.

C. President's Report

There was no president's report as Jennifer was sitting in for Alan.

D. Treasurer's Report

Chris presented the treasurer's report. (See attached) Of special note, Carrabba's Night made some money; the camp and yearbook are paid for; and yearbook money for next year is coming in.

E. Officer's / Committee Reports

Tracey Marcantoni – Reflections program had 16 participants and was a great event. There were 5 Awards of Excellence and 1 Award of Merit from CVE. They will move onto the Baltimore County competition. If the projects make it back to CVE by the end of the year it would be nice to have them on display.

Jennifer thanked everyone for helping with Carrabba's Night and for those who participated. Mrs. Bauer's class will get an ice cream party for having the most class participants. She said there were 212 total guests for both seating's.

Jennifer Cullinane discussed the Multi-cultural Fair & Silent Auction slated for April 18th from 5:30 – 8:30 with the theme "Hello to Children Everywhere." There will be child performers, adding more from last year; a multi-media display, first time and asking families to submit vacation photos from around the world; art displays from around the world; asking 5th graders to volunteer by helping with face painting, crafts, etc; and a multi-cultural food table, with every effort being placed on food from around the world. Further, there will be an on-line registry for volunteer sign-up; all continents are being handled; and items are needed for the Silent Auction.

Gigabyte Giveaway was a fun event – Jennifer D. thanked Joan McKinley for all her efforts. Approximately \$1,000 was raised. Joan said Box Tops has also been popular and to expect another \$600 to come in from that initiative.

Heidi Curriero talked about the Helen Grace Fundraiser (the gourmet food) and said it was difficult on account of the particular fundraiser representative. She said one of the problems was illegible instructions. She said this would not be a fundraiser she would do in the future, however considering some of the problems (weather and having to adjust dates for delivery, over selling because of the illegible instructions), it did better than anticipated and she expects \$1,500-\$1,600 to come into the PTA. There will be a few items that can be purchased when the products are delivered. See Heidi for more details.

The PTA discussed ways to better coordinate fundraisers throughout the school. The thought would be to send out a survey with an opt-out option, where a member would contribute an amount and not worry about doing fundraisers. It's important to consider that some members enjoy doing fundraisers and we don't want to take that away – but between the school and PTA fundraisers, better coordination needs to occur so that parents are not overwhelmed by all the requests for money/fundraising. We don't want such fundraising efforts to fail, so next year it will be important to map out the school and the PTA fundraisers to avoid overlap, or at least reduce the overlap.

Jack's Brain, Jill's Brain Seminar is slated for April 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. A reminder will go out again. It's a popular seminar, worth attending.

F. Principal's Report

Chris provided the Principal's Report on behalf of Darlene who was unable to attend as the PTA meeting conflicts with a leadership program CVE was selected to participate in with other educators and administrators. The report:

The CVE staff would like to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Jill Wright who received the Baltimore County Outstanding Technology-Using Educator Award for 2008.

On Saturday, February 1st, the following students represented CVE at the Baltimore County Black Saga Competition: Team One, Detrick Manning, Daniel Williams, and Natalie Johnson; Team Two, Julie Mangano, Daniel Oyefusi, and Valerie Kahla. The following students attended as alternates and were ready to go if needed, Shana Williams, Saieda Pascall, and Ella Williamson. These teams will be competing at the Maryland State Black Saga Competition, held March 15th. Good Luck to the students and thank you to Mrs. Falatko and Ms. Schlezes for sponsoring the teams and for their tremendous efforts to support our students.

Congratulations to Krystal Zou and Ben Francis who will represent CVE at the Math 24 Challenge on March 8th. Thank you to Mrs. Falatko and Mrs. Goddard for coordinating the event for the students.

CVE was one of three elementary schools from Baltimore County to be chosen as a "charter" member of the BCPS/JHU Leadership in Technology Integration Certificate Program. CVE will participate in the program with Oliver Beach Elementary School and Summit Park Elementary School. The goal of the program is to develop highly skilled school leaders who can successfully model the art and science of exemplary leadership in the use of educational technology. The following teachers are participants in the cohort: Ms. Dana Novotny, Mrs. Jill Wright, Mrs. Vicki Lockwood, Mrs. Dorothy Smith, and Mrs. Flo Falatko. The classes are to be held on Tuesday nights, conflicting with the PTA meetings. (The Executive Board considered moving the meetings to meet the needs of Darlene, but determined that there were only a few meetings remaining this year and that the new Board should determine a night that works for them and Darlene.)

Due to inclement weather, illness, and prior commitment, the School Improvement Team was unable to meet in February. The results of the parent survey will be discussed on March 3rd. Thank you to all who participated.

Mr. Lyle Patzkowsky, of Baltimore County Public Schools, will visit CVE on March 6th.

Thank you to those who coordinated and / or prepared the cafeteria for Carrabba's Night, especially Jennifer Descoteau, Chris Descoteau, Stacey McCarron, Alan Van Luven, Clarence Jones, and Brian Robinson. Darlene heard many positive comments; the food was good and the atmosphere relaxing.

G. New Business

Margaret discussed the lighting of the outdoor sign and while she did much research and was ready to bring her tools in to replace bulbs, it was determined that there was in fact a switch inside the school. This proved to be true and low and behold, the switch was turned on, the clock and timer set and now all can read the sign when the sun goes down! Thank you to Clarence Jones and Tracey Marcantoni for this revelation!

We need volunteers for the 2008 – 2009 Nominating Committee. Information will go in the next newsletter but please spread the word and encourage participation in this committee which is tasked with forming next year's PTA Executive Board.

Jennifer mentioned that Katherine Wikstrom will place another Spirit Wear order in the spring so look for an order form to come your way. Also, Committee Chairs, please be sure your information on the website is correct and any links you have to various emails are correct and that they work.

Teacher Appreciation Week is in the works – see Stacey Parson for more information.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by Jennifer Descoteau. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on March 18th in the CVE Media Center.

Minutes submitted by: Margaret Cellucci

Approved by: Jennifer Descoteau