

**PTC Meeting Minutes
Ogden Avenue School
December 2, 2009**

Attendance:

Christine Mannella
Dr. Boudreau
Jennifer Joyce
Mary Beth Busby

Elizabeth Engels
Jill Daniels
Lenore McCarter
Sue Krone

Paula West
Dawn Aubert
Meg Shanley
Mary Drew

Call to Order

Christine Mannella called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

Approval of Minutes of November 4, 2009 Meeting

The minutes of the November 4, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes with this revision was made by Jill Daniels, seconded by Elizabeth Engels, both of whom were present at the November meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Red Sled took in \$1000 more than budget. Quiz night will be close to \$3000 for the one event. Mixed bags did very well also.

Overall, things are looking good for the budget. We don't yet have the check from book fair or spirit wear.

Principal announcements:

Thank you for conference day food for teachers. There were a lot of baked goods. Some went to freezer for use at upcoming Staff meetings.

December – Donuts with Dad will be on 12/11, the Holiday Sing will be held on the 18th and Santa will visit classrooms on the 17th. The winter concert will be held next week. The Board meeting next week will be held at Ogden, with the Chorus singing.

Playground – there have been 10 broken limbs over 8 years attributed to the round, spinning 'monkey bars'. The statistics are not consistent over the 8 years: there were 2 years with 3 breaks, followed by several with no breaks. Many of the injuries were off school hours.

Forest Road also has this equipment, as do many of the Parks in the area.

Last year, after 2 breaks, Dr. Boudreau had the equipment lowered and more wood chips added.

According to John Segvich, we could install a neoprene pad under the equipment, but that would cost ~\$3000. The PTC Exec Board is not inclined to take the equipment out because accidents can happen on any of the equipment. Can't ever guarantee kids will be 100% safe on any of the equipment

There was a question about the school District's Attorney's perspective. It's a public playground and therefore not a great District liability.

Are there ways to mitigate the danger? Dr. Boudreau has taken steps to make it as safe as possible. Dawn Aubert's research indicates that the critical fall height is 84", per the Consumer Product Safety Commission. We need to monitor depth of wood chips on a regular basis. Perhaps we should look at other ground cover alternatives. One issue noted by Sue Krone is that kids move wood chips after school to build up ramps for bikes, etc. The chips get compacted at the bottom, but the added chips at the top can be moved around which means they are not always at the correct depth.

An alternative may be rubber mulch but there are students with rubber allergies and there can be contaminants in the rubber that make this not feasible.

Can we change out certain parts of the playground with a poured surface? Concern w/ this is that a major change out may lead to other ADA requirements.

Kids can get hurt on other equipment or just walking down stairs. Perhaps we need the District to make the decision of whether we really should consider this a danger.

There was a request that the PTC consider paying for the \$3000 rubber mat or a poured in place material – perhaps earmark particular fundraisers for next school year to cover the cost. Christine Mannella pointed out that it's a safety issue, the District pay for it from the Life Safety budget. Whatever we do, Forest Road will be impacted.

Dawn Aubert is OK with monitoring the depth of the mulch, marking the equipment with a line of height at 72", and keeping the mulch level up (within reasonable expectations - kids move mulch around). Dr. Boudreau will also check to see if the spin speed can be tightened – Forest Road 's are very tight. Dr. Boudreau said that older kids oil them to spin faster (and also wax the benches to run skateboards).

The Police have been asked to monitor the playground to make sure older kids are not on the playground after hours. A camera has been asked for, but has not been approved. Dawn Aubert will follow up on that with the board.

President's announcements

We are looking for a larger venue for the Spring Quiz Night. We sold out at Nazareth with 220 people. Nazareth costs \$600, so we don't want to go over that amount.

We are not going to do the holiday fundability.

There will be no PTC calendar next year – our information will be combined with the school calendar on the District website. Dr. Boudreau will do the maintenance on the calendar.

A Subcommittee is being formed to review bylaws this spring.

Social VP:

There is a Wolves game planned for 1/30.

Red Sled VP:

Jennifer Harding has some recommendations for changes for next year. She will present these at a later time.

We need to figure out if the CPSIA (Consumer Product Safety Information Act) will affect us as Red Sled next year. We have some information from the District's Attorney, but it does not give us clear instructions on what, if anything, we need to do / change in our processes. We will bring this up at Roundtable to see what Forest Road has decided to do about their Toy Sale.

Garden Committee:

The 2nd order of bricks is in and may be installed in the next few days.

One more bench was donated.

One section of rubber surfacing is in but needs to be installed when it is at least 60 degrees at night. We will need to wait until Spring. In the meantime, we will monitor it to make sure no one trips.

Mud hill – may need to just plan to resod the hill every spring after school is out. The biggest problem is bikes running over it - try to look at blocking area after hours.

We are getting some donations from community groups for bigger ticket items like the bridge – the committee is looking into using LT wood shop students to build the bridge.

We need approximately \$20,000 to finish the project. They are looking to do a fundraiser in the spring – something that is a lower cost to put on than the auction - something like a beanbag tournament with barbeque, etc. Perhaps we can do a jump rope for the garden since we are no longer doing the heart association jump rope thing).

A fundraising idea for concerts: have a professional videographer for events like variety show, band concerts, winter concert, etc., and sell the CD's. We could also sell parking spaces and front row seats (Cossitt does this).

100 Year Celebration

Mary Beth Busby presented the early plans for the 100 year celebration, to be held on October 8, 2010. Look at attached handout for details. They are thinking of a logo contest, a ribbon cutting ceremony, a time capsule, and displays of artifacts. The biggest expense will be a photograph of the entire school - put all kids and staff on playground with the same t-shirt (photo taken from the roof). The idea is to put the picture on a canvas. The day of the celebration will be a day of programming, assembly, classroom parties.

We may be able to supplement the cost with some portion of room parent funds. Also may be able to get something from the 6th grade committee.

Adjourn

Paula West moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m., Elizabeth Engels seconded the motion.