

**Springer PTA
Association Board Meeting
Tuesday September 11, 2007**

The meeting came to order at Springer School, Staff Room at 7:00 pm. Attendance sheet is attached.

Call to order and welcome:

- Kathleen Stukenborg, PTA Co-President, called the meeting to order.

Principal's Report:

Bob Celeste highlighted a few important items/goals that follow:

- There was a very exciting opening to school this year that has continued to this day. The children are tolerant, pleasant and excited to be at Springer. Parental turnout on first day was the most ever. Happy playground=happy learners=happy staff.

Goals:

- **Teambuilding:** change in every grade, new kinder teacher, 2nd grade new teacher, 3rd grade lost teacher, 4th grade new teacher, 5th teacher moved from 4th, 6th is stable. Team building is very important. Approaches: teachers to meet with resource and support team. Feedback on resource meeting has been positive. Much communication going on.
- **Technology in 5th grade:** Technology committee, starting on 9/12, 5th graders have laptops in the classroom. Tool of learning. 6th grade teachers are working with 5th grade teachers. Digital literacy as a tool of learning, cutting edge. Help make that all work.
- **Critical thinking:** Part of instruction (again) in California. Challenging goal for California. Students are being asked lots of questions, evaluating, comparing, and make choices. Different approach to learning.

Physical Education:

- Kinder-3rd grade teachers are being trained in SPARK, classroom teachers teaching phys Ed to children. 20 minutes involved in physical activity. Grant money from the state to fund equipment.

Writing Goal:

- Step-Up to Writing, which starts in Kindergarten and proceeds to middle school. Students learn to write and to do it well.

State of Springer School:

- 1st assessment, national norm test given in grade 3. Only grade test that is nationally “normed”. Test is given across the nation, 17% of students were new to our school last year. (New meaning to the Los Altos school district.)
- Science test done in 5th grade: Assessing all the science that has been taught up to 5th grade. Interested in seeing growth. The numbers mean % of students showing mastery.

Writing:

- In Los Altos, working diligently to Step-up-to-writing program, 1st test in 4th grade (2nd in 7th). Springer out scored the district for the first time. 20% in perfect score territory.

Math:

- Diagonal analysis, by 2013 according to no child left behind, there will be no child at below or far below basic level. School is sanctioned, our goal at Springer, have all children at Proficient and Advanced category. Right now we have 90% of students at Proficient and Advanced level. PTA sets aside funding for the students that fall in basic or below categories. Test in 2nd grade is oral test, 3rd grade test is more independent.

Language Arts:

- Writing influenced the scores; new students influence the scores, which the state does not take into consideration.

Accountability Progress Report:

- Produced by Santa Clara County. It is a way for the state to analyze and recognize schools in California. Also, recognized by the California business roundtable for our growth. There is an academic objective and growth target to meet. California is asking schools to look at sub groups, (ethnic sub-groups i.e.: Asian, Caucasian). Project out measurable objectives by 2013.
- Reviewed in detail on how Springer School did. 83.7% of students have mastered language arts curriculum. 90% students are achieving mastery/proficiency in Math.

Springer results:

- API dropped a few points from 2006-2007, why?

Possible reasons:

- Prediction questions, based on a long paragraph to read, prediction statements, challenging questions which ask children to think differently.
- Advanced vocabulary embedded in questions, could pose confusion in younger grades.
- Geometry is generally taught last in curriculum; more emphasis placed here on test. 25 questions asked on Geometry topic.

- State changed scoring formula, more emphasis on sub-groups, more weight given to API score based on sub-groups (Asian, Caucasian, disabilities, etc.). There is more attention to the sub-groups now, ensuring they are not left behind academically.

Walkathon Committee Update:

- Planning underway for the **20th Springer Walk-a-thon!** Theme is to have fun. This year it will focus on community and the event being less competitive. Length has been shortened and there is no incentive to walk more than 50 laps. Pizza and Chef Chu's will be available on a pre-order basis.

Family Picnic:

- Well attended, pizza sales up by 60% from last year.

PTA Membership:

- Doing well with 465 members to date. "Tech Fund" line item added to membership choices, which will help to maintain costs of computers. To date: \$4,700.00 raised for the tech fund and \$4,200.00 raised for party fund.

LAEF:

- Phone-a-thon coming up in October. Contribute to the fund by October 15th, and avoid a "reminder" phone call. Funding raised will be spent **during** the school year. LAEF exceeded established goal last year, therefore each school received an additional laptop cart.

Auction:

- Caroline Price and Vickie Brey, Co-chairs for the auction. Trader Vic's is the venue with scheduled date of March 15th, 2008. The Auctioneer is reserved. There is a meeting on 9/12 to finalize details on theme. Auction goal: simplify putting a successful auction together.

Goals for 2007-2008:

- Tina Klaassen and Sona Vohra approval of goals.
- Vote to approve goals as written: motion stands.

Committee Chairs 2007-2008:

- Motion to approve, Risi Vera.
- Motion approved and stands.

May Minutes 2007:

- No changes to be made.

Flag football:

- Rich Seigel to run on Monday and Fridays with Andrew Towell assisting.

Treasurer Report:

- **End of May report:** Ratify checks #5234-5325. Motion to approve by Jim Stroud. Motion adopted report to be filed for audit.
- **End of June report:** Ratify checks #5326-5389. Motion to approve by Sona Vohra. Motion adopted report to be filed for audit.
- **End of July and August report:** Ratify checks #5390-5399. Make motion to approve by Amy Connell. Motion adopted report to be filed for audit.

Budget items changes:

- Behavioral specialist money not to be spent (Blach School funding this) spend this on literacy and math aids.
- \$510.00 increase for CSMA, (Arts-in-Action) due to more students on campus this year. Budget to be reviewed mid-year, after walkathon and before auction, so that any changes can be made.
- Motion to approve budget: Tish McKernan, in favor, budget approved.

Auditor Report:

- No questions, motion to accept by Jayne Amsden. Motion to accept audit by Celandra Hamilton.

Critical Thinking:

- Judi Hultberg and Beth Rubenstein reviewed various questions posed on the tests for 4th graders.
- Beth Rubenstein gave an overview of how teachers are approaching the introduction of critical thinking to students. Ask the students to explain a topic to the teacher, helps to generate ideas from the classroom. Conclusions are generated by the students throughout the day.

Toolbox feedback:

- Delivery to classrooms worked well, each teacher dealt with the toolbox differently per classroom needs.

Step up to writing:

- First assignment by 4th graders has taken place. Students seemed comfortable and got busy writing. Many funds are going to training and the teachers appreciate the support.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Amy Connell
Secretary

