

**Cathcart Parent Organization
General Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2013**

Attendees: Amy Banken, Kim Fogelsong, Riana King, Sandy Ropka, Jessi Brothers, Sarah Ricci, Judi Stumpf, Christy George, Dave Rogers, Ruthie Nicholson, Mary Walter-Feltner, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Marshall, Casey Bowers.

Meeting called to order at 6:41 pm

Introductions

Review of CPO General meeting minutes from 5/1/13. Amy Banken motioned to approve; Sandy Ropka seconded.

Treasurer's Report (Sandy Ropka):

- Sandy Ropka reported that we the CPO Checking account has \$9,258.57 and Savings \$10,498.
- FundRun recently brought in approximately \$9,100, and a little more is trickling in each day. Reminder, that this money, less the FundRun expenses, is being earmarked for the new track.
- Recent credits;
 - Money out of library's holding account for fall book order.
 - Transportation costs for field trip; \$2200
 - Yearbook order; \$4100
- Reminder that with the funds from the FundRun holding for a new track, and if the request for the 2013-14 subscription money for A.R. is approved, that there won't be a lot of funds available to approve teacher requests at the beginning of the school year, until money comes in from a Fall Fundraiser.

President's Report (Melinda Tutt):

- The basic CPO calendar of event is set for next year. TBD is still any possible Holiday Affaire date. We can see if we want to consider something different because December is a busy and short month.
- Melinda attended the Glacier Peak Honors night. Lots of scholarships awarded, lots of valedictorians. Patty Venema was presented an award via a GPHS parent organization (gift of handmade quilt). The two CPO scholarships were awarded to former Cathcart students Rachel Thomas and Logan Stimson, both wonderful candidates.
- Idea from CPO member Sarah Ricci, about the CPO organizing something like "Adopt a Bed". The idea of families adopting a flower bed at the school. We formerly had a Green Team board position that oversaw some upkeep of our grounds. Even then, it was difficult to find participation on work party dates. Sarah herself, noticed that she wanted to participate, but just couldn't on the particular dates. So she thought if families adopted a flower bed or area, that they could come up on their own time and do the upkeep when it was more convenient. They could be responsible for planting any flowers, weeding, etc. The Adopt a Bed will be brought up at our next CPO Board meeting.
- Melinda read the announcement about Paula Bailly's award. Paula Bailly, kitchen manager at Cathcart Elementary, has been named the Sodexo Foundation's 2013 Hero of Everyday Life for her more than seven years of work fighting hunger in the local community. In honor of her volunteer service, Bailly will receive a \$5,000 grant presented in her name to the hunger-related charity of her choice, the Snohomish Community Food Bank, with funds earmarked to support the district's Kids' Café summer meal program. In addition, she will be formally recognized for her efforts on June 6 in Washington DC at the 14th Annual Sodexo Foundation Dinner. In fact, since Paula has two twin girls, and couldn't decide which one was going to get to attend with her, Sodexo stepped up and arranged a third ticket so both of Paula's daughters could be with her for this important event. Melinda also read Paula's quote, "Working at an elementary school really opened my eyes to the needs of children," Bailly said. "I feel blessed to be able to give back and I really encourage others to reach out into their communities and help those in need. It's easy, it's fun and it's very rewarding." We are all very happy and proud of Paula!
- BOGO Book Fair is still going on now. Robyn mention she could still use a couple of parents to help on Thursday from 9am-1pm.



Family Events (Janelle Tremaine and Tawnya Lowery)

Melinda reported on behalf of Family Events that things are all ready to go and we are excited to have family's come out on Friday night.

Hospitality (Christy George/Mary Mellis)

Christy reported that Teacher Appreciation week went really well. They received great feedback that the teachers and staff loved it. Also new this year was incorporating the staff at the same week. So it's Teacher and Staff Appreciation week. This way, it's a week devoted to everyone and every felt it was nice to be appreciated as a team.

Community Liaison (Kim Fogelsong/Dawn Ipsen)

- Kim reported that we plan to have a food drive at the Summer Kick-off on Friday.
- The Book Drive is something Dawn Ipsen is working with Robyn to help orchestrate. Robyn was able to give us a great update on the new addition to the Kids' Café offered in the summer; it's the Book Café! Librarian Jenny Grainger at Emerson noticed there was a need in our community for kids to have access to books during the summer. Therefore, once a week, a Book Mobile (van donated by Bickford), will be following the Kids Café to their three locations. In the Book Mobile will be books for any child up to age 18 (just like the free café meals). Book Drive is currently being held now through end of school year here at Cathcart to obtain donated books for this cause; looking for books of all genre and ability. The book drive has been really successful so far. A SEF grant was received for this to purchase books, as well as tubs to organize the books in the van. Tuesday June 18th is the first day for the book mobile and will run 1X/week through Labor Day.

Accelerated Reader (A.R.)

There is a request from the Cathcart Teachers to have the 2013-2014 AR Subscription renewed. It was reported on May 23rd that the school district was no longer going to fund A.R. for the schools. At this point, teacher and library spending accounts are frozen and the subscription fee is due by June 30th. Robyn Tapia has offered up \$1,000 from library's money and the teachers are asking for the CPO to pay the balance of the subscription. The CPO members need to vote on whether or not to fund this subscription for \$2,578 dollars. Comments from Teachers and members below:

- Mrs. Henderson shared that she would be lost without this program. That this is something that she uses every day in her class. It is a program that helps test independent reading level for each child. Her success story includes a 5th grader that started her class at about a 1st grade reading level. Through the use of the A.R. program, which helps identify books that will fit a child's reading ability and comprehension, it has helped this girl move from 1st grade, for a 4th grade reading level that year. The program helps Mrs. Henderson identify appropriate books for each student, and set goals. In her class, she sets a goal of each student reading 20 books. She sees an average rise in level 1.5. She is able to get weekly checklists from AR.
- Mrs. Marshall uses the program also in much the same way. She also finds that the ability to have this be an online program, also helps children transition easier to the computer lab when it is time to take some the school required testing (computer is not so intimidating and they know how to log-in, etc). She feels that A.R. is providing confidence to once struggling readers. That kids who pass a quiz or move up a level, are so excited about what they accomplished and share that excitement with her and parents.
- Mrs. Taylor shared that literature is a big thing in her class. Shared a story of a girl who hated reading, to a girl who was quietly reading in her room for pleasure. A.R. is a program that helps her students pick out books. Each month in her class she wants the kids to change the genre of book, to introduce them to other series and ideas. She likes the instant test results that A.R. gives.
 - Dave Rogers asked the teachers, of the goals they set utilizing this program, how many children are reaching the goals? Mrs. Henderson, with 20 book goal, said about half met the 20 book goal, but had 100% participation in the A.R. program. Mrs. Marshall said with her 35 point goal, about 7 students reached the goal, and only 4 didn't participate. Mrs. Taylor, with 20 book goal, 3 of 28 reached it but with good participation



- General notes about A.R. from teachers and Mrs. Tapia;
 - The A.R. program provides them with lots of reports and graphs to help assess students. The A.R. program helps assess a student's independent reading level and comprehension as just one of their tools.
 - A.R. is used by all of the grade levels from K – 6th.
 - The A.R. program has almost every book imaginable in the system. That you aren't limited on your quizzes from the books from CA library.
 - The quizzes must be taken at school (no at home testing)
 - The \$3578 is a subscription for the program, the access to all the quizzes and reports. Subscription fee based upon number of students in school. (Basically it will be about \$3,700 every year to maintain this program.) This is different from the last program, Reading Counts, where each individual test and the book had to be purchased independently, and it was not web-based.
 - Currently 6 other elementary schools and GPHS use AR. Don't know how many will find the funds to renew subscription.
- Comments from parents:
 - Worried that students may be limited with the range she's been assigned. Robyn Tapia commented that children are tested at least twice a year using the A.R. Star test to find their range. Teachers and parents can requests a child be tested.
 - Felt this program isn't just keeping track of the number of books your child is reading. Yes, most children can read a book, whether or not they comprehend the content of what they read is the other piece. The A.R. program helps identify that.
 - This program just got started. A lot of time and resources have been put into putting this program all together; it would be a shame abandon something so early in o take away all that investment. Also so many more books are available for children to pull from because you don't have to just use books from Cathcart Library. ARbookfind.com helps you identify all books in AR, their reading level, genre, fiction or non, etc.
 - Not all teachers utilize the A.R. program the same way; some don't really use it. Also that not all students are responding to the challenge that A.R. presents for them. That A.R. is not required.
- Suggested that if the A.R. program funding does get approved by the CPO, that we should consider finding ways to recoup the costs. It was suggested that at beginning of the year "Shopping Cart". A sort of checklist that you can check off for different expenses for your student's class. (I.e. \$5 for Scholastic, \$8 for AR, \$14 for Yearbook, etc.). There could also be a portion to also sponsor another student's portion where there may be a need. A way that it can be done all at once and easily identifies the areas where the school funds are short. If not this idea, at least another way to fund or reimburse for the cost of AR.
- From the CPO business perspective, with the teacher's requesting this A.R. funding, they need to understand that there will be limited funds available to them for other requests that they may have; more noticeable this fall. Also, this is a very large request and expense.

WatchDogs

- Dave Rogers reported that the WatchDogs BBQ has been cancelled because it was unable to get it put together timely. Dave is working with Steve Tickle to see if they can still put something together this summer.
- Working with Principal Bowers to schedule a night in the fall to do a recruitment night. Dave wants to do something again with a Bob Ricci and a corn feed at the school. There were lots of dads signed up in the program this last year, but not all of them participated on a school day; like to get more involvement during the school days.
- Dave would like to continue to find a way to work with the Snohomish Sherriff's Dept. Currently the dept. has a presence at the middle and high school level, but it would be nice to see what areas of need should be identified from an elementary perspective.



Principal's Report (Casey Bowers):

- Still has not heard back from Ralph Rohwer, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations for Snohomish School District about the running track.
- Discussed conflict of date next school year with Valley View graduation night and the Cathcart Carnival. Everyone felt that if we moved our carnival back a week to 5/30 would be best.
- This is her last CPO meeting. Has met with incoming principal Mike Anderson. Mike has principal experience from Redmond school and also Maywood Hills. She shared with Mike at a meeting that our CPO is truly committed to ALL our kids at Cathcart and feels that is very unique about us. Should be a good transition. Suggested we invited Mike to our first general meeting next year
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New business:

- It was suggested that our CPO may want to increase notices and information on Facebook. Felt that many parents are not getting information as readily in their children's backpacks or from the CPO update of Cougar Tracks. Great suggestion!
- Dave Rogers commented on Science Fair follow-up. Committee pleased with results. Need to retool a few things. Maybe consider new time of year.
- No idea what dates will be set for CPO General meetings yet.

Voting results (including any absentee ballots)

- Should CPO to fund \$2,578 dollars toward renewing subscription for A.R. for 2013-14 school year?
- 13 Yes, 5 No

Election results 2013-14 CPO Board Members:

President: Melinda Tutt

VP Fundraising: Diana Francis

VP Family Events: Riana King

Treasurer: Tara Rogers

Secretary: Amy Banken

Co Hospitality: Shellene Cano and Christy George

Volunteer Coordinator: Ginger Kunz

Community Liaison: Kim Fogelsong

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

