

Cathcart Parents Organization (CPO) General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Attendees: Melinda Tutt, Amy Banken, Sandy Ropka, Riana King, Christy George, Jorge Balcazar, Kim Foglesong, Ginger Kunz, Sarah Arnold, Sarah Ricci, Tara Rogers, Jennifer Stonestreet, Carolyn Jewett, Michael Graves, Tawnya Lowery, Mike Anderson, Denise Del Gianni, Jeff Perrigo, Kim Hughes, Chris Coyle

Location: Cathcart Library

Meeting called to order at 6:38 p.m.

1. Introductions and Welcome

2. Secretary's report (Amy Banken):

- a. Reviewed meeting minutes for June 2013 General Meeting

3. Guest Speaker – New Principal Mike Anderson

- a. This is Mike's 20th year as a principal; worked at 5 different schools. Last school Elizabeth Blackwell in Sammamish. Our students are as great as any group of kids; we play like the 1970's kids which is great! Lately been spending most of his time Recess, Lunch and Buses and will start working into classes soon. Notes that buses are starting to be more on schedule. We are having tough time with new routes in our rural environment and dealing with the construction. Each day is getting better. Easiest staff he's had - they are great! Some systems not as good as they should be. (I.e. the plays shed). Has already run 2 emergency drills, Fire and Lockdown, and still planning a Bio-hazard drill soon. All the little kids have recess at the same time now. Been talking with the bus drivers every day and find out any problems with students on the bus and he can take care of it right away. This is the smallest school he's worked for so far, but keeping him very busy.
- b. Cathcart is working with students about how to respond to teasing, harassment or bullying; a strategy Mike Anderson calls Talk, Walk and Tell.
 - Reminded us that having conflict is normal
 - Basically, first you Talk. "You can't talk to me that way". If child keeps on harassing, then you Walk away. If the person follows you and continues on after you, then you go Tell someone you trust.
 - Reminder that most kids lie; even the best kids.
 - We need to put kids in a place where they know how to take care of conflict.
 - New counselor is visiting each classroom and reading book about Fill Your Bucket. Reminding kids that when you do good, good things will come back to you.
 - With situations, Mike likes to handle right away instead of student sitting in the office waiting. Sometimes it's running laps, sometime using writing it out. Best to deal with it at the time and don't leave it for the teacher later in the classroom.

4. President's report (Melinda Tutt):

- a. Welcome new board member; **Sarah Ricci** as Co-Fundraising
- b. **New Welcoming Committee** has been formed by CPO to help new families get adjusted and introduced to Cathcart. Sarah Ricci will lead this committee.
- c. **By-laws:** Normally at the first meeting of the year the CPO Board seeks the approval of any changes to our CPO By-Laws. We are still in the process of making suggested modifications



to our By-Laws including our Mission Statement. We will present for approval at a later meeting. We'd like input from members about what ideas they have for the Mission Statement.

5. **Treasurer's report** (Tara Rogers):

- a. Current bank balances total \$14,380.
- b. Normally at the first of the year the CPO Board presents a budget for the current year. At this time we are challenged to find a working budget with our available balances and anticipated incomes for the year. We hope to present something at an upcoming general meeting. Until then, we have frozen expenditures that haven't been preauthorized from the CPO until we can formalize a working budget. We are expecting fundraisers will increase our budget shortfalls.

6. **New Walking/Running Track**

- a. Update from Mike Anderson. When he was hired on as the new principal, he also wrapped up duties at his old school. The district came to him with a plan and quote during the summer for the track to be built. Mr. Anderson took the information that he had at the time (that the community was requesting the track, the school had NFL Play 60 money, and verified that the school's Donations General Fund Budget had sufficient funds) and approved the building of the track for the \$21,000 quote with the NFL Play 60 funds and the Donations General Fund, which took a large hit. After the fact, he has found out that the CPO had raised specific funds to get a track built. The CPO will work with Mike Anderson for the Payee to apply our FundRun funds for the CPO portion of track expenses.
- b. Currently there is no maintenance planned. Mike Anderson said our track is very similar to the Totem Falls track which is 5 years old and still in decent shape.
- c. The track is currently being used for Cougar Cruisers and PE, general play and community use.

7. **Family Events Report** (Riana King):

- a. Family Fun Night at Bob's Corn (Fri, 9/27/13). Free entry to maze for any size food donation from the family. We will also accept monetary donations. That night we will also be handing out coupons from Bob's Corn for 50% off a future pumpkin purchase. Use for a pumpkin to bring to our Pumpkin Walk in late October.

8. Chris Coyle gave a report on behalf of the **Cub Scouts**. Have a big event on Sept 17th at the Cathcart gym. Entertainment by GG Green Magician. Looking to sign up new Cub Scouts 1st- 5th grade. FYI - The CPO charters the local boy scouts. Community is invited.

9. Sandy Ropka gave a report on behalf of the **Unicycle Club**. There is a unicycle parent meeting on Monday, Sept 23rd in the library. Seeking adult volunteers for the club which is open for students 4-6th grade.

10. **Hospitality Report** (Shellene Cano/Christy George):

- a. Teacher Potluck on Curriculum Night 9/26/13. There was a link in the last CPO sent out by Gaye earlier in the day via Luckypotluck.com. If you'd like to participate, contact Hospitality@cathcartparents.org. Dishes need to be at the school by 11:30am that day.



11. **Community Liaison report** (Kim Foglesong):

- a. We plan to have the Maltby Food Bank truck at the Bob's Corn Family Fun night. Last year families donated over 1000 lbs of food (36 boxes) and raised \$229. We are going to try to challenge families to double that this year. Mike Anderson offered the possibility of an extra recess if we do. Maybe do a video show/
- b. Suggested food items from the food bank: Beans, canned meats, jam/jellies, Mayo, olives, canned dinners, ramen, Syrup, Coffee, Oil, Ketchup, Chili, Soup, fruit cups, Rice a Roni, Sugar, Shaving items, etc.

12. **Volunteer Coordinator report** (Ginger Kunz):

- a. Encourages parents to fill out a Volunteer Form. You can get one in the office or online from website. We also have an updated list of from the WSP to see if your volunteer status has or will expire.

13. **WatchDogs report** (Dave Rogers):

- a. Golf Tournament this Saturday.
- b. Recruitment and Corn feed date Wed 9/25/13. Blake the Entertainer for the kids in the gym, while the dads go to presentation in library.

14. **New Business**

- a. **Melinda Tutt** announced that due to personal circumstances she is resigning as President of our CPO effective tomorrow. We are actively seeking someone to fill that position. We appreciate all of Melinda's hard work and enthusiasm as President and a Board Member over the last several years. Thank you Melinda.
- b. Denise Del Gianni asked about the **Art Smart art docent program**. It's a volunteer parent run program through the school. The CPO purchased Art Smart years ago; an art education and project curriculum. Lesson plan for project are provided and easy to follow with lists of art supplies. Denise would like to head this program and bring it back regularly into the classrooms. The CPO Board will discuss if we'd like the Art Smart program to come under the CPO wing. Suggested Michelle who runs local kids art studio, Art 4 Fun just off Broadway might be a great resource too. Feedback from teachers were that they liked the art programs, but had difficulty when a parent would be scheduled, and not then not show, or a parent would show up unprepared without the materials. Possibly we'd like to think about having an Art Show. Sarah Arnold also offered to help Denise as well. For those that don't know, Sarah has been working with all of our **Cathcart memorabilia**, clippings, pictures and history over the last year from Tracy Nugent. Sarah is now keeping it safe and getting it organized. Thank you Sarah!
- c. Reminder that **Box Tops** are being collected and parent Jane Piercy is heading that committee.
- d. Suggested that we update our **CPO website** with more current information

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

