**Ilchester Elementary School PTA Board Meeting**

**December 19, 2014**

**Board Member Attendees:**

Maryann DellaRocco, Paul Norfolk, David Adelman, David Walter, Glenna Deekle, Jean Xu, Heather Hughes, Janet Zang, Zhiyong Yang, Christina Hill, Momina Malik, Maryann Sair, GingerCooke, Kim Kettering, Tonya Sigalas, Ning Zhou, David Walter, Heather Tom, Danielle Rao

**Meeting Summary**

Budget Surplus Update and Financial Votes

1. Ms. Kettering researched the cost of the 20 iPad minis gift to the school from the PTA which would total $7,160 that is actually a price drop.  The iPad minis will be used by each team with students, cameras, and video and to connect to the audio visual equipment in auditorium.

2. In terms of the buddy bench gift, more follow-up is needed. The bench will be for the playground so that children would be able to send a message to kids that they are looking for a playmate. Mr. Adelman will be specking it out with the County. The school counselor Tina thinks it is a fabulous idea.

3. Ilene Davis, the Health representative in the front office, is looking to purchase a multi epi-pen holder. Maryann asked attendees if we could donate $40 to buy it for the nurse’s office.  There was a motion to approve purchase, it was seconded and ultimately approved for purchase.

4. Glenna proposed a front office holiday gift from the PTA. They help all the committees and PTA as a whole. We contributed individually last year.  The proposal was to purchase a Jason’s Deli gift card for $100.  There was a motion to approve and it was seconded and ultimately approved for purchase.

Lunar New Year Program Proposal

In follow-up to several PTA discussions about funding for Chinese New Year events, a parent committee made a presentation about proposed programming for 2015.  The presentation highlighted that the Lunar New Year programming is culturally relevant to many ethnicities including Chinese, Mongolian and Korean. Last year the Chinese New Year activities were very successful. The programming enriches students through professional performance that teach them new things and enhance understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture. The 2015 proposal is for 2 shows that include a fan dance and a peacock dance performed by artists from the Chinese dance center.  Additionally, the line dance and dragon dance traditional performances for Chinese New Year would be performed by Ilchester students who work with a choreographer and director to help them learn the dances.  The committee also proposed to hire a musical performer and an artist to demonstrate Chinese painting.  Their budget also included purchase of small prizes that they know cannot include candy. Maryann advised no food due to the food policy and allergies.  Someone suggested plastic coins. The total budget is $650.

Mr. Norfolk and Maryann thought it sounded like a lot of activities to fit in a short period of time and want to make sure there is enough time to complete everything. It was suggested that the committee review the agenda and timeline and make any adjustments to the program and budget.  A question was raised about an Ilchester Cultural Backgrounds night. Maryann said that next year we could try to do that.  All of the cultural arts activities will go through Mr. Norfolk for scheduling and alignment.  Next year we want to give more cultures an opportunity to coordinate performances under the assembly budget. It was suggested that cultural assemblies should be separate budget from assemblies.  It was acknowledged that we need to develop a better method and that the curriculum has to come first. Many parents and students miss the cultural and ethnic background night.  We discussed having something next year in the spring.

The conversation returned to the Chinese New Year committee proposal.  A parent suggested money should go for prizes for everyone.  The parents on committee want to provide quality and variety. Maryann stated that this would be the last cultural arts event the PTA will be funding.  There was a motion to pass the proposed Chinese New Year budget, it was seconded and approved.

Principal Report

Mr. Adelman sincerely appreciated the gift card from PTA after he had surgery.  His family got a nice carry-out dinner with it. He said it was good to be back and he thank you to Mr. Norfolk for all he did while he was out on medical leave.  Mr. Adelman wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Vice Principal Report

PARC testing will take place the whole month of March,  If you are planning a trip or doctor appointment please notify office so that they can schedule computer availability to make sure all students complete the test.  Any planned absences in March should be reported to the teacher.

Teachers report

The color printer issue was raised bur Mr. Adelman said it was handled.

Treasurer

-The spirit wear sales went well raising $488 which was more than we budgeted.

-Teacher reimbursement forms are coming in.

-Point of clarification, once the PTA gives iPads to Ilchester they become HC property but they cannot be taken from Ilchester. If staff leave they can not take any equipment.

-Tonya has a check for Jean from SquareOne. The SquareOne sale sold 717 pieces of artwork. There were 273 purchases totaling $11, 260 with $3,653 profit. The lack of participation may have to do with the artwork choices this year. The concept was not understood by all the kids in each grade.

Fundraising Committee

The PTA believes there was fundraising fatigue from fall fundraisers.  A committee has been formed to discuss a one-payment system instead of fundraisers except for restaurant nights and Square One. The committee intends to make sure people realize what we spend the PTA budget on.  The flower sale was voted out because of effort vs. payout plus many kids often do a week of thank you type things in class and individually for teacher appreciation. There will be no fundraisers in the spring.  Tony suggested that we send another SquareOne Art offer around mother’s day time frame to see if people would order something.  We are not doing Kidstuff coupon books this year.  Someone asked if there was anyway to get some to sell at Bingo night or back to school nights.  The fundraising committee will explore that option.

PTAC Report

-PTAC has established an advocacy group representing parents’ voices to the school board.

- The Health Policy was discussed by PTAC.  It has had positive impacts like school breakfast, recess for all students, etc. There are many people who feel it has a negative impact on school celebrations.  There was a handout distributed outlining the history of PTAC discussions on the HCPSS Policy 9090 focusing mainly on school celebrations.  Some schools are working through PTAC to try to restore discretion to the principals to make the decision about celebration refreshments but it was tabled. PTAC will discuss it again in January. Nothing is likely to happen even with votes and discussion because of the Horizon grant and politics. Bonnie Branch has a few issues like Breakfast of Champions and a few other incentive type food activities.  A revised item regarding school celebrations for principal discretion- should be up to individual schools decision puts stress on the principal. Some attendees feel it is a no win situation and that the principals will not be able to make everyone happy.  Many people feel the kids are not happy.  At the same time there are kids with food issues or families who do not want their kids having unhealthy foods. There was more discussion about parents opinions on food policy including the fact that it came out of nowhere during the summer. We voted on whether the Ilchester PTA supports advocating for a change to the language in the policy to allow the principal discretion over celebrations.  There was a motion to approve that was seconded and the majority of attendees were in favor however there were some who were opposed.  The PTAC representatives will support the language change in the January meeting based on the majority approval.

Other Business

A parent raised the parking and traffic pattern issues with Rec Program lane and drop off lane. We also discussed that there are not enough parking spaces. Mr. Adelman said that there are 124 staff and 74 spots. The Board of Education is very aware of the issue. The principal will send a communication to make sure parents know the traffic flow.  Parents in the drop off line are not always considerate of cars behind them and often help kids to unload and hug and kiss goodbye, etc. Parents have been known to be hostile to staff who attempt to keep things moving the way it is supposed to.  Parents would like to see a crossing guard to help get out onto Ilchester Road. Staff are not allowed in the road. It is likely a risk management issue. The principal is asking that parents use the bus if they qualify. In past years it was determined that 50% of car riders should be taking the bus.

Adjourn