

**FEBRUARY 11, 2010**

<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>			
X	<i>CO-PRESIDENT</i>	Julie Van Gelder	X <i>TREASURER</i> Gia Morris
X	<i>CO-PRESIDENT</i>	Louise Schie	X <i>TREASURER</i> David Morris
X	<i>AUDITOR</i>	Rick Haller	<i>CHECKS</i> Cathy Wood
	<i>VP FUND RAISING</i>	Lesley Reid	X <i>VP GRANTS/WISHLISTS</i> Sangeeta Peris
X	<i>PRINCIPAL</i>	Vivian Franklin	X <i>SECRETARY</i> Aena Prakash
	<i>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</i>	Meera Ramanathan	X <i>HEALTH &amp; SAFETY</i> Eman Altayyeb
X	<i>STAFF LIAISON</i>	Jana Weber	X <i>STAFF LIAISON</i> Elizabeth Allen
X	<i>ROOM PARENT COORD</i>	Kim Ploshay	

The meeting was also attended by over 50 people including committee members, parents and teachers. It was held in the GLC to accommodate all attendees.

7:05pm - Louise called the meeting to order and the Board introduced themselves.

Minutes from the January 14, 2010 meeting were re-accepted, with the corrections made by Gia regarding Room Parent Reimbursements.

### Welcome

Louise clarified that every aspect of the budget situation is being looked at, that input is requested from everyone, that the upcoming parent and teacher surveys are part of the information gathering process, and that no decisions can be made until we know more about the actual numbers in cuts.

### Presidents' Report

Julie reported on the Walkathon, how the District is addressing the budget situation, federal aid, parent donations, and pink slips.

- The Walkathon kickoff meeting had been held. Graphic designer(s) are needed for this effort.

*Question:* Can we change the income target? Julie replied that while that may happen, it cannot be done as yet without knowing how much to change it, nor what to change it to. The current goal is \$68,000.

- The District has been holding informational meetings, and the CUSD website has much information, including about changes to proposed parcel taxes needing a simple majority, as opposed to the current 67%. Budget cuts have affected the District for a few years, but we have been cushioned thus far because their mitigation measures did not include personnel, until now.

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- Many options have been looked at regarding the loss of class size reductions, but that only certificated staff (teachers) can be allowed to handle the safety of their charges (students). In this litigious environment the superintendents are concerned about law suits by parents if non-certificated staff (volunteers, student-teachers) oversee children. The max ratio allowed is 32:1 students to teacher.
- Regarding the budget cuts, Julie showed that the \$8.8 million that the District is losing next year has already been addressed with cuts negotiated between the District and the unions. But there are additional cuts that can be made for items as yet not negotiated.
- The State has a complicated penalty system for increase in class size (moving the ratio), and that 95% of all California schools are into the penalty structure.
- The federal program, Race to the Top, is mainly to assist underperforming school – we do not qualify.
- Parents want to donate money to the District to keep class size reduction in place; the money will be collected from all schools into one district pot, and equally distributed amongst all school. If \$1 million is raised the ratio can go from 30:1 to 27:1; and if \$2 million is raised the ratio can be lowered to 24:1; and if \$3 million is raised it can be back to 20:1.
- This money has to be raised by May 15. The money must be through a non-profit, like CEEF.
- By March 15 CUSD will decide which certificated staff (teachers) will be laid off, and notified. Actual pink slips will go out May 15.

*Question:* Why are District personnel getting raises? Julie explained that by agreement the superintendent was to get a raise after the teachers got their raise last year. The CUSD website has more information.

About 80% of the attendees had visited the District website, and about 70% the PTO website.

*Question:* What about the \$7 billion help for education from the Federal government? Julie did not feel that that money would come through before June 30. And we may even find out that between July and October, the District may cut more than \$8.8 million, which is another reason for us to develop our Ideas List.

- A total of 135.3 FTE positions will be eliminated District wide.
- The 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades' music program was not on the District's list, so we may still have that paid for by the District.

### Principal's Report

Vivian provided additional details as to how the District's cuts affect our school. And expressed gratitude to the parents who have shown support for the teachers.

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- PE time includes a certificated teacher outside with the PE teacher, since PE teachers are not certificated and are not allowed to oversee the children.
- May lose four to six teachers.
- The decision to layoff teachers is determined by seniority. The District and Union have a system in place for certificated and classified positions, which includes 'bumping' rights, all based on seniority.
- The principal does not have the authority to assign specific people to a specific position.

*Question:* Why can't the PTO fight this, and demand hiring by performance? Vivian said that this issue needs to be addressed at the District and State levels.

*Question:* Why can't the PTO hire back the laid off teachers, and use them for PE, music or art? Vivian said that they did do this, but last year it was changed to certificated due to the current litigious environment.

Julie added that though the PTO pays for the PE, music and art positions, it is the District that acts as the 'employer' on our behalf for a 5% fee to manage all the details of employment. She also reiterated that volunteers could be used for PE, music and art, but not for the classified positions of aides (library, technology, or instruction).

Vivian reported on the success of the Math Night, and thanked the many volunteers. Same for the Movie Night, and thanked the teachers for volunteering their time.

The CEEF night was attended by 8 teachers, and was grateful to the PTO for paying 4 of the teachers, while Vivian used an additional \$600 from the Principal's Fund to pay for the other 4 teachers.

### Treasurer's Report

David presented data showing the seven year trend between 2003/04 to 2008/09.

- The Tech lab upgrade was saved for 3 years and used in this year.

*Question:* Why was the money spent when the budget was so bad? Sangeeta explained that past budgets saved money for lease renewals every three years totaling \$30,000; the PTO took a decision to purchase equipment to extend its usage to 4 years.

*Question:* Why was this money spent when we were looking at increase in class size?  
Opinion from attendee: No point in discussing this since the money has already been spent.

*Question:* Does going to 30:1 mean more students, so we'd need bigger classrooms?  
Vivian said that other populations may come to our school, like special education.

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### Programs Presentation

Bev Caballero, Librarian, gave a presentation of her duties in operating and maintaining the library. *(A copy of her presentation is available with Aena, the Board secretary.)*

- 16,000 books; 600 students; 30 teachers; 10,000 check ins/outs thus far this academic year; re-stocked every 3 or 4 years; scholastic book fair runs for one full week; used for other activities like Jr. Great books, music, assemblies.

*Question:* How many hours a day are kids in the library? Bev replied that the for the full time that the library is open, from 9 – 3:30, there are kids there, either with their class or during their recess and lunch, or to hold programs like Jr. Great Books.

Juana Berstein, Technology Aide, gave a presentation of her duties in operating and maintaining the technology lab. *(A copy of her presentation is available with Aena, the Board secretary.)*

Juana's presentation covered the use of her five hours of aide time to include organizing and managing the lab, supporting the computers in the classrooms and school office, supporting the school's network, the voice-over IP for teachers and staff, the voicemail for the teachers and staff, sound equipment for GLC/12 classes/lab, the Fusion Mobile Lab, the Mobile Presentation work stand, along with hardware/software troubleshooting, staff training and support, and district technology meetings.

Scott Conklin from the District's IT department expressed support for all Juana's efforts.

### Personnel Presentation

Vivian provided some information on CEEF and SLIP. She also explained that our school plan targets math and the environment (social and physical).

This year we got \$50,000, and next year we will get \$40,000. SLIP pays for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and KG instructional aides

Vivian also covered the curriculum for the Art, music, and PE programs; and said that the District requires certificated teachers for these programs.

### Parent Survey

Louise informed that the survey would go out today, encouraged parents to get informed by visiting the CUSD and PTO websites before taking the survey; and to develop their opinions on volunteer hours and direct donation. The survey will close on February 26.

*Question:* What will be done with the data? Louise answered that it will help prioritize parents/teachers values. Gia added that decisions have to be made before March 15.

*Question:* Is the teacher survey the same? Vivian said that though the surveys are similar, like asking about instructional aides, or about art/music/PE, the teacher's one

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does not ask about direct donation or volunteering. Sangeeta added that there is a question about mini-grants and teacher allowances.

Louise concluded that all is data gathering will lead to further discussions and a follow-up meeting of the PTO.

*Comment:* This process is not open. Parents want to be more a part of the organization. Parents feel that discussions are taking place that the membership does not know about.

Cris Vaughn suggested that a communication position be created to manage this, and would free the co-Presidents for other tasks.

*Comment:* One attendee wanted to thank the PTO for their information and work.

*Comment:* Another attendee expressed frustration that the PTO cannot help keep the teachers that perform well, and not lose them because of a lack of seniority. Julie reminded everyone that the PTO cannot lobby.

### Budget Analysis Team

Julie gave an update of the efforts of the BAT, and explained that the timeline for budget mitigation measures is between February 24 to March 15 to get all information.

Julie and Louise covered the numerous ideas that have been suggested thus far; the Idea List is posted on the PTO website.

Julie covered the topics that the BAT will look at over the next weeks, like identifying the core principles that will drive mitigation measures, the next milestones to be met before signing the agreement with the District, the major areas of focus, and new factors that may have to be integrated with the proposals.

Julie also described the Conflict of Interest clause that is in the guidelines of the PTO Code of Ethics.

*Suggestion:* Put the PTO Code of Ethics on the PTO website. Also state on the website somewhere that the PTO meetings are open to the public.

*Question:* What is the mechanism employed to get ideas out (which ideas will be addressed, and which will not be addressed)? Julie replied that the very big ideas that are most contentious have been incorporated into the parent survey. There will be the next PTO meeting on March 11, and an interim meeting before then.

### Grant Update

Cris Vaughn gave a presentation to the Board for the creation of an Extramural Grants and Funds Committee. The committee is a team of parent volunteers with grant writing and editing experience. They will solicit funds from community and corporate organizations and venture capitalists for teacher grants (technology, math, science, general education, and arts).

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The mini-grants funds come from the PTO (parent supported), but the EGF committee would interface with it. The committee needs more volunteers, Corey will lead the committee and Cris is co-chair.

*Question:* What is the cost to the PTO for this committee? Cris answered that there is an on-going cost of \$75 to maintain some websites.

*Question:* Will the funds collected be part of the PTO budget?

**Motion:** Shall an Extramural Grants and Funds Committee be formed?

**Passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Aena Prakash, Secretary