

## Argonaut PTA Meeting Minutes: September 2, 2009

Staff Lounge 8:45am

Attendees: Sreela Venkataratnam, Ann Chang, Rachana Desai, Arati Nagaraj, Heidi Pierce, Alex Chapman, Christie Nielsen, Gail McCauley, Greg Spirakis, Jean Poo, Aparna Kondagunta, William Fung, Laura Jacobus, Anita Arun, Prathibha Tallak, Niyo Rathod, Amy Huang, Bridget Parr, Lennie Traina, Margery Chen, Annsue Costello, Parul Samdarshi, Ashley Chao, Jennifer Guidry, Jennie Lau, Monique Hunt, Gretchen Ludwig, April Tilles, Pauline Chiu, Anna Sturge

Treasurer's Report – Pauline Chiu 8:50am

We are at break even at end of the year, prior year ending balance \$45,329.57 (checking + money market). Interest on money market higher than a CD, so leave cash in money market. July and August checks approved. Move some savings to checking to cover Smartboard purchase.

Auditor's report - Anna Sturge

From Jan to June, books are balanced. Reminder that we have incorrect receipts submitted, need the actual invoice not just the packing slip. Make sure submissions include the payment form and receipt. When collecting PTA membership we don't want money to go straight to the district; Pauline to check with Chenchu. Some outstanding checks not cashed. Approved audit.

Math Docent Discussion - Alex Chapman 9:05am

We have adopted a new math textbook, and we had a full day of teacher math training. How will math docent work w/new curriculum, feedback from teachers are:

3<sup>rd</sup> grade (represented by Mrs.McCauley) We will not need math docent as many strategies are covered in the new text, and we will still need parents to come help with the many activities, games, and math tiles. Also, homework activities at home will involve parents.

4<sup>th</sup> grade (Mrs.Pierce) We can blend projects from the new curriculum with math docent. We have seen the benefits of math docent and it has made a difference. We will need this year to survey and see how it fits in with the new curriculum. So we will keep Math Docent this year.

5<sup>th</sup> grade – (Mrs.Nielsen) We will need to modify docent as it is very involved, there are 9 projects that fit in to certain places. We will have new math series, but do modified docent once a month, and have volunteers come in to do math projects. Be patient until we can figure out how it all plays together.

Alex – we will let teachers decide on what they want to do with math docent. Math docent is great for parents and we do not want to drop the volunteers from coming into the classroom but change it to accommodate the new curriculum.

Greg Spirakis – Originally curriculum did not cover all topics so we needed math docent to bring in more. Main point is to have teachings covered and not dropped. Math docent should be a fun time, kids look forward to it. As things get rolled from the new curriculum, let's make sure activities can still be fun. Don't want to lose certain grades & genders to math!

Fundraising JDI – Anita Arun, Prathibha Tallak 9:45am

We had a good start, parent coffee response was great. Room parents need to send out reminder about JDI. Not much change from last year (thx Jeannie Lau!) There is only one corporate matching form for SEF or JDI. Help spread the word!

Confusion w/membership and JDI: JDI team did not initiate it. We need to keep it separate in order to keep track of directory orders, so we need to pay separately now. No deadline for directory order. Forms will be available by back to school night for directory orders.

Community Service Presentation – Vinutha Mohan, Arati Nagaraj 9:55am

Kids have to understand how to help kids. We will try to coordinate efforts with student council. Give services not money. Suggestions: Lucille Packard Children's Foundation, Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley, kidzhelpingkids.org, etc. Plan: Q1 grades 3-5 (kids reading to kids, concert recital or donate variety show proceeds), Q2 school wide (send community garden plantings to foundation, Tibetan prayer flags, or donations of used items) and Q3 grades K-2 (field trip or

writing cards and notes). Mrs. McCauley mentioned Jump for Heart is a great community service, also Candy for Troops at Halloween. Alex will oversee all the activities from various organizations so we can make sure there is no conflict with time.

Membership – Gretchen for Chenchu 10:20am

We will extend deadline for on line directory inputs. We'll need better advertisement for every family to input data. Teachers need order form too.

Teacher's report – Mrs.McCauley

Thank you! Lunch was wonderful! We have outstanding support from the PTA.

Principal's Report – Alex Chapman 10:25am

Review star testing results next time. Argonaut did very well across the board! We shine in performance! We had an exciting Monday, with the yellow jacket hive underground disturbed during morning recess. District nurse was here with allergy information on hand and everyone was notified. Support from the district was immediate. Hive was not removed, but insects are exterminated. A lesson for all the students: do not go into the bushes!

PTA tech purchase of new computers for the computer lab - thank you PTA! We will replace classroom computers with extra ones from lab, and SmartBoard was purchased. Staff wide training will be included. Laptop & projectors: four carts ordered.

Argonaut 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration will be on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Early afternoon will not overlap with Redwood Musical. More details to come. Distinguished school process: we may not get award by April date.

Scholastic Reading Report - reading counts program - Jennifer Guidry

More teachers want to use it this year, so we need PTA for support. \$830 can come from principal technology acct and \$868.54 can come from staff grants instead of asking from parents. Annual fee per student can be put in as staff grant this year to see how the response from teachers are, but put in as a line item for the budget next year.

President's report - Gretchen Ludwig, April Tilles

Lots of events so far, thank you ALL for your help. Keep up the good work. Lots of classroom positions still open. Slide show by Kerri will be ready, clarify membership at back to school night, extend date for data input of directory, and headroom parent must emphasize each donation. Alex will need a copy of budget from each class as per the class accounts policy. Bike Rodeo will be on Sept.26, and Musical signups will start on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup>. Red Ribbon in Oct and Fitkidz: no coordinator at the moment. Please let Gretchen know who is interested. We have collected signup sheets from first day coffee. Argonaut shirts: 375 shirts sold, 43 gifts to staff and 100 sweatshirts all sold.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of August 18, 2009 PTA meeting were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

**Next PTA Meeting:  
Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 8:45am  
Staff Lounge**