**MINUTES**

**Shady Grove Elementary PTA Board Meeting**

**January 14, 2016**

**Sixth Meeting of 2015-2016 School Year**

**Present:** Sally Raderer, Gwen Jahangiri, Stephanie Estey, Renee Kreiser, Meghan Gemmill, Kirsten Hanson, Diana Tittermary, Kim Berselli, Zak Young, Anna Gibellato, Mary Wilson, Sarika Malani, Leslie Baker, April Kim, Janet Sullivan, Colleen Bohlman, Kelly Bartlett, Emma Gaccione, Amy Foy, Kelly Rapp, Heather Prather, Radha Joshi, Shannon Koshy, Dr. Regina Schwab, Crissy Lynn, Debbie Taylor.

**Absent:** Tabetha Swertfeger, Erin Reed, Irina Libon, Alexandra Bula, Kevin Dodson, Natalie Nelson, Carin Molloy, Sejla Hoareau, Brigitte Sicat, Natasha Gamboa, Joanne Rosel, Katherine King, Stacy McLeod, Deana Collier, Ani Revilla.

**Call to Order (Time: 6:33pm) – Sally Raderer**

***Approval of Minutes-\*Motion made to approve the minutes from November by Amy Foy. Seconded by Shannon Koshy. No one opposed. Motion carried.***

***Approval of Minutes-\*Motion made to approve the minutes from December by Leslie Baker. Seconded by Janet Sullivan. No one opposed. Motion carried.***

**Correspondence-Stephanie Estey**

\*No report submitted.

**President’s Action Items/ Announcements-Sally Raderer**

\*Recognitions for Kevin Dodson and Natalie Nelson for all of their efforts.

\*Recognized the Welcome Committee Chairs.

\*Yearbook team recognized.

\*If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please let Sally know.

\*Please let Sally know if you are planning on staying on the PTA Board or not asap.

\*Thomas Fernald Scholarship-there was a request from a college freshman inquiring if she could be eligible for this scholarship even though she is out of high school. Opened floor for discussion. Plan to keep the eligibility as is with only accepting applications from current high school students for various reasons.

**Principal’s Update-Dr. Regina Schwab**

\*Interim safety audit today. (1/14/2016).

\*St. Jude Math A Thon has started.

\*New spelling bee champ, Adam Edwards (3rd Grader).

\*Parent survey was sent home, have until February 12th to complete it.

**Treasurer’s Report-** **Gwen Jahangiri**

\*Financial report circulated.

\*Highlights were covered during meeting.

**Executive Committees:**

**1st VP Programs-Tabetha Swertfeger/Erin Reed**

\*Erin and I are currently tying up loose ends for Family Yoga Night and have begun working on February's Detective Night.

**2nd VP Finance-** **Renee Kreiser/Meghan Gemmill**

**Box Tops for Education-**

\*No report.

**Finance report-**

\* 30 magnets still left and trying to get a hold of parents to issue them.

\*Run the Diner-still trying to get a date locked in.

**3rd VP Volunteers- Diana Tittermary/Kirsten Hanson**

\*No report other than the save the date for the Volunteer of The Year will be going out soon.

**4th VP Communications – Colleen Bohlman/Irina Libon**

**Publicity Report**

\*No report submitted. (Deadline for the Blast is tonight)

**Lay Advisory- Alexandra Bulla/Kim Borelli**

\*Lay advisory was asked at the December SGES PTA meeting to follow up on Reflex Math being provided by the school district to many elementary and Middle schools, in the hopes we could save money. It is one of our Significant PTA budget items, other Schools are getting it without PTA funding. The district pays less for it as they can negotiate a "bulk" rate.  Please find the response we received from the district below:

Kim,

I received your message earlier this morning and did a little research on my end here. It doesn’t appear that Shady Grove is on the list of schools that purchased Reflex at the negotiated price earlier this year.  The price that I’m seeing is significantly lower than the $3600 that you mentioned in your message.  Are you looking at renewing the site license now in January? I’m asking because we’re currently in the middle of an RFP process for digital mathematics resources at the elementary level. It is likely that I will be sharing a matrix of digital resources with building administrators (which may or may not include Reflex) sometime in February.  If you’re looking to renew a subscription for next year, I’d suggest waiting until that process is complete – I cannot give a firm quote for next year at this time. We could discuss the negotiated pricing if you’re looking to earmark funds in the PTA budget for this resource.  If you have a subscription that is expiring now, it may be possible to work with the technology department and purchasing to purchase at the price.   
Thanks,  
Vickie

 \*Dr. Schwab also had a response that the PTA should consider.  We should look at the PTA budget to see if and how much should continue to be allocated for this resource.

**County Council- Kevin Dodson/Natalie Nelson**

\*No report.

**Standing Committees:**

**After School Programs- Anna Gibellato/Zak Young**

\*No report.

**Cultural Arts/Educational Enhancements – Janet Sullivan/Mary Wilson**

\*We are expecting a check refund of $ 590 for December's Robotics  
performance. The refund was not requested, but offered after a number  
of schools had called to offer feedback on the show.  
This refund will bring our total expenses for the year down to $8,625.  
\*Thanks to a last minute (county offered) addition, we will have two CA  
programs this month -- The World Beat program and Dance-Tappin Math.  
Both programs inspire movement and with help our students understand  
the importance of rhythm.

**Destination Imagination Committee Report-Colleen Bohlman/Irina Libon**

\*No report submitted. (Teams are registering for the Central VA tournament)

**Grounds – Sejla Hoareau**

\*Birdhouses and a sign were installed in the Peace Garden.

\*We are starting to work on “Tree Sisters” spring planting and will be reaching out to 2nd grade teachers to select planting dates.

\*We will be reaching out to KG teachers to select dates for spring planting of potatoes, peas, and carrots.

**Hospitality-Brigitte Sicat/Kelly Bartlett**

\* Charming December Treats went well.

\*Upcoming event-Chili Fest.

**Legislative-Emma Gaccione**

\*No report submitted.

**Membership-** **Natasha Gamboa**

\*No report.

**Parliamentarian-Amy Foy**

\* Directory:  We decided to give families one more opportunity to be added to the digital directory if they noticed their info had not been included.  This will be accessible via MP and will be viewed as a separate document for download or printing.  We are finding some parts of the registration process on MP could have been confusing and will need to be evaluated and improved to prior to next year.  It needs to be very clear to the person registering that he/she has completed each part of the process.

\*Scholarship:  the Thomas Fernald scholarship applications will be distributed to HCPS high school guidance counselors later this month.  Each year SGES PTA awards local high school seniors that previously attended SGES with scholarship money raised by the Rockathon.  This scholarship is awarded to students who have dedicated time and energy to community service.  Last year, we were able to give $8000 in scholarship money to 11 prior Cardinals.

**Reflections- Joanne Rosel/Mary Wilson**

\*Mary is looking for someone to work alongside her next year to be trained for the lead role for the following year.

**Room Parents-Katherine King**

\*No report.

**Scholarship Fundraiser- Leslie Baker/April Kim**

*\** April and I have done updates on the 2016 Rock A Thon.  Our report will consist of updating on date, time of Rock A Thon, registration changes and fundraising emphasis for this year, and how the board can assist us through planning, executing and concluding the Rock A Thon this year.

\*Will ask for Volunteers going forward.

**School Store- Kelly Rapp**

\*No report.

**Spirit Wear-Stacy Mcleod**

\*No report submitted.

**STEM Lab/Outdoor Classroom-Heather Prather**

\*1. STEM Needs Analysis - Thanks to the needs analysis information collected we have been able to stock the lab and classrooms with STEM supplies in time for teachers to conduct STEM activities throughout the school year. Some of the STEM materials are consumables and some can be reused, like magnets, weights, etc. This means we can potentially use STEM funds next year for something new or add a new STEM activity in order to expand the STEM program.

2. STEM Lab Aquarium - Most of the frogs survived the winter break.

3. STEM Lab Laptop - To make it easier and have more time for instruction, SGES has designated a laptop for the STEM lab. The laptop will be password protected with only staff having login rights. Teachers will log on, and when necessary, volunteers can give the lesson (e.g., Journey North Tulip Project).

4. SGES Bird Feeder - It's that time of year and the birds are looking for food. We have installed a variety of SGES bird feeders located in the middle of the Outdoor Classroom. There is a squirrel-proof can full of bird seed, a pole for kids to reach the bird feeders, and a Google sign-up sheet for classes to sign up to feed the birds. We are still waiting on an answer from HCPS IT as to how to get a bird webcam outside in order for kids to watch the birds from their classrooms.

5. STEM Parent Experts - This second semester we will continue to look for ways to further build the program. One important goal of the program is to involve the parents in STEM by bringing in their expertise to teach the kids STEM. Our grandparents like Mr. Richard Prettyman, Mrs. Evy Roberts and Mrs. June Hiller are great examples! The fifth grade robotics parent is another example. We have noted in the needs analysis where there is a "match" between a STEM activity and a parent surveyed who expressed expertise and an interest in teaching/contributing to that topic (e.g., simple machines activity - civil or structural engineer). Teachers can decide if it practically makes sense to involve a STEM parent expert for a particular STEM activity.

6. Communicating "Doing STEM" - The kids are "doing STEM" and sometimes parents are unaware because the kids don't know it's STEM or just don't share what they've done when they get home. In an effort to increase awareness of the program, we ask that parents and teachers share and ask what's happening in STEM. Remember STEM includes *any* Science, Technology, Engineering or Math activity inside or outside the classroom or in the lab. STEM is not a place it's a program. :-)

7. Facebook STEM News - We have not received many "likes" or feedback on the SGES Facebook page for national or international STEM news posted since the beginning of the year, despite 350+ "friends." In order to communicate exciting and inspiring STEM news to parents (and kids), we should explore other ways to communicate to our SGES audience and possibly different content.

**Welcome Committee-Deana Collier**

\*No report.

**Yearbook- Radha Joshi/Shannon Koshy/Ani Revilla**

\*No report.(Keep the pictures coming)

**Teacher Reps- Ms. Lynn/ Ms. Taylor**

\*No report.

**Time ended: 7:40 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Stephanie Estey, Secretary**

**Next Meeting:**

**PTA Program**

**January 21st 2016**

**Time/Event TBD**

**PTA Board Meeting**

**Thursday, February 11, 2016**

**6:30pm**